

THE TIMES

35p

No. 66,080

TUESDAY DECEMBER 23 1997

http://www.the-times.co.uk

WHY MEN ARE TOO STUPID TO FLIRT

Joe Joseph on the subtle art of chatting up, P15



LIBBY PURVES

God bless the Christmas deadline
PAGE 16



WHEN THE DOG EATS THE TURKEY

Your guide to Christmas off-the-cuff



HOW AN ATHEIST FOUND FAITH



Brown attacks critics of reform

Labour 'true defender of welfare state'

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

GORDON BROWN last night went on the offensive against critics of Labour's welfare state, declaring that the "true defenders of the welfare state are those who are prepared to reform it".

The Chancellor told Old Labour opponents fighting to derail the biggest reform in 50 years that the "war against poverty in Britain can only be won by the modernisers".

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Brown also sought to reassure his party at all levels, including the Cabinet, that the review would be carried out in a sensitive way. It was not, he said, being driven by the need to make cuts but to improve the system by providing more opportunity to work and more security for those who could not do a job. It would not be an "indiscriminate slash-and-burn exercise".

But after a weekend in

which a letter to him from David Blunkett opposing proposals to alter disability benefits gave the first sign of a serious Cabinet split on the issue, Mr Brown tackled head-on the fears of the Left and welfare campaigners that the needy could be hit in the general search for reductions in the £100 billion a year social security budget.

He said: "The reform of welfare is based on principle. It is not cuts-driven; it is not economy-inspired. It is inspired by the need to have a modern system that meets the needs of people and provides the opportunities to them that they need."

He added: "This is the biggest reform for 50 years. It is something we approach with proper sensitivity to the needs of those people who are dependent on the welfare state. To say that it is an indiscriminate slash-and-burn exercise is completely wrong. This is inspired by the need to restore the welfare state to its original purpose of opportunity and security for all on the basis that the true defenders of the welfare state are those that are prepared to make the reforms that are necessary."

Mr Brown said that he had

never flinched from difficult decisions and would not do so now: he recalled that as Shadow Chancellor he had first been criticised for his plan to prevent young people taking benefit if they refused all the options available under the welfare-to-work scheme but it was now accepted in the party.

The Chancellor denied suggestions that the Prime Minister's decision to take overall control of the review was a slight to him. He had been keen on the most comprehensive review of welfare and did not think it could have been done any other way.

He then issued his battle cry for reform in a way that suggested he accepts the view of many politicians and commentators that only a Labour Government with a thumping majority could ever carry out a true reform of the welfare state.

He said: "The war on poverty, which is what we are fighting, was never won in the past by the old methods. The war on poverty can only be won by the modernisers, prepared to look at the past and how new approaches are needed to look at the overall use of resources, prepared to generate an anti-poverty strategy that tackles the causes of poverty, which includes unemployment and lack of skills, and prepared to look comprehensively—not in a piecemeal way—at how we can help."

Continued on page 2, col 3

Lib-Dem proposals, page 16
Letters, page 17



Protesters at the gates of Downing Street yesterday. They said that the Government saw them as "soft targets". A dozen were arrested, but later released

Downing St protest ends in arrests

By TIM JONES

TWELVE severely disabled people protesting against possible cuts in benefits were arrested yesterday after they spattered Downing Street with red paint, handcuffed themselves to the gates and accused Tony Blair of treating them as easy targets.

The 12 were released after receiving formal warnings. Some of the demonstrators were handed begging bowls by the Disabled People's Direct Action Network, which organised the protest and claimed the paint symbolised the blood that the Prime Minister was "sucking out" of their "hopes, dreams and dignity".

Chanting slogans saying Mr Blair should be ashamed of himself, the 20 people who took part in the protest promised that this was just the beginning of a huge protest against benefit cuts. A few of them eased themselves from their wheelchairs and rolled in the paint. Others who handcuffed themselves to the gates vowed that although they had always voted Labour, they would never do so again. Police, who halted traffic in Whitehall for a few minutes, used bolt cutters to remove them. Mr Blair was not at Downing Street during the protest. He was touring a factory in his constituency of Sedgfield, County Durham.

Rachel Hurst, chairwoman of the lobby group Rights Now, said: "It is frightening

that following the weekend leaks, Mr Blair has not denied the cuts are going to happen. I have people on the telephone to me who are in tears and threatening suicide."

Susanne Bull, 27, a charity worker who has spina bifida, said: "Without my mobility allowance I would be trapped in my house and have to claim all the benefits, costing the Government much more."

Kevin Donnellon, 35, from Liverpool, a thalidomide victim, said: "I feel the Government is picking on us as soft targets, but we are not going to give up without a huge fight."

Conrad Russell, page 16



"Is that nose natural, Rudolf, or is it red paint?"

Spurs welcome back Klinsmann

Jürgen Klinsmann, who left Tottenham Hotspur in acrimonious circumstances 2½ years ago, yesterday returned from the Italian club Sampdoria on a loan deal. Tottenham are languishing third from bottom of the Premiership, with only five wins from 19 games so far this season. Page 40

Delia's stake

Delia Smith, the cookery writer, and her husband Michael Wynn Jones, the publisher, have bought the majority shareholding in Norwich City football club. Page 5

TV & RADIO	38, 39
WEATHER	20
CROSSWORDS	20, 40
LETTERS	17
OBITUARIES	19
LIBBY PURVES	16
ARTS	28, 29
CHESS & BRIDGE	33
COURT & SOCIAL	18
SPORT	33-38, 40
BODY AND MIND	14
LAW	31

Buying The Times overseas
Australia \$20.00; Belgium £10.00; Canada \$20.00; France £10.00; Germany DM 25.00; Greece Dr 650; Hong Kong HK\$ 25.00; Italy L 4,500; Japan ¥ 2,500; Korea ₩ 25,000; Malaysia RM 35.00; Mexico \$25.00; Netherlands f 15.00; Norway Nkr 250.00; Portugal Esc 350; Spain Ptas 325; Sweden Skr 25.00; Switzerland Sfr 5.00; Taiwan NT\$ 2,000; USA \$25.00.



Beef farmers urged to quit after £85m emergency deal

By ANDREW PIERCE AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

THE Government paved the way yesterday for many beef farmers to leave the land in a radical restructuring of the industry as it announced a one-off £85 million emergency package.

Dr Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, who confirmed that there would be a year-long inquiry into the BSE crisis, emphasised that a drastic reduction in the size of the business was essential and said farmers should prepare for root and branch restructuring.

The minister served notice on beef farmers that the days of heavy government subsidies were over. The new priority was to reduce the size of the industry by luring farmers off the land through measures such as retirement schemes partly funded by the European Union.

He said that last year, £2 billion had been paid to the beef industry and a further £1.4 billion was being spent in the current financial year be-

fore the £85 million was taken into account.

"These are very large sums indeed. They cannot be maintained indefinitely," he said. Referring to the £85 million, he said: "I must emphasise that these payments are exceptional and one-off."

Dr Cunningham said the long-awaited inquiry would be chaired by Lord Justice Phillips and take a year. It will encompass Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, the human form of BSE, which has cost the lives of more than 20 people. The Tories, who promised to co-operate with the investigation, said it was a gift to other EU states, who did not want the ban on British beef lifted.

While the National Farmers' Union welcomed the £85 million as a "lifeline" for hard-pressed beef farmers, Dr Cunningham said they had to face a new reality: there was an oversupply of beef throughout Europe and a long term decline in consumption. Sub-

stantial restructuring was required. It had to begin immediately.

"In the interests of consumers, taxpayers, the environment, and not least the farmers themselves, we must reform the beef industry so that it becomes economically and environmentally sustainable. Our long-term aim should be to reduce the scale of subsidy to producers."

Ministers were planning early consultations with the farming industry to achieve the reduction. They would explore whether the EU's early retirement scheme and other structural measures could play a part.

Dr Cunningham said that the £85 million, which the Tories dismissed as "Scrooge-like", included £60 million from the EU to offset the effects of sterling revaluations and poor sales. Most of the benefit would go to some 90,000 hill farmers who have been hardest hit. The remain-

Continued on page 2, col 4

Al Fayed nearer to British citizenship

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

MOHAMED AL FAYED, the chairman of Harrods, was hopeful last night of achieving his ambition of becoming a British citizen after the Government said his application would be reconsidered.

Jack Straw told MPs that the Government was abandoning its challenge to a Court of Appeal ruling that the Conservative Government had unlawfully rejected citizenship applications by Mr Al Fayed and Ali Fayed, his brother. The Home Secretary told MPs in a written Commons answer that he would now consider the Egyptian-born brother's requests for naturalisation "on their merits". He also said that in future all applicants for citizenship would be told the reasons for their refusal if they were rejected. In 1996, about 43,000 people were given citizenship and 5,000 were rejected.

Mr Al Fayed hopes that he is on the verge of winning his long struggle to get British citizenship. He said that he welcomed Mr Straw's an-

nouncement and was confident that his claim and his brother's would get a fair hearing. "I love this country and I am confident that the Home Secretary will consider our citizenship applications with fairness," Mr Al Fayed said in a statement issued from his Harrods store in Knightsbridge. He added: "I am grateful to him and I am sure many other people will feel the same."

He said that Mr Straw's announcement was important for very many people who had applications for naturalisation rejected but who were not given reasons for the rejection.

Home Office sources said that it would be months rather than weeks before Mr Straw reached a decision on the applications.

Mr Al Fayed's anger at his failure to gain citizenship under the Conservatives fuelled his feud with the Tory Party and culminated in the cash-for-questions affair.

Man in the News, page 2

Retired miners face cut in free coal allowance

By PAUL WILKINSON

THOUSANDS of retired miners and their widows face a cut in the amount of free coal they are entitled to receive, breaking a promise made to them at the time of privatisation.

About 200,000 people receive the benefit, worth up to £500 a year, which was negotiated as part of pay settlements many years ago. Working miners receive up to five tonnes, others receive around three tonnes. The allocation is based on the price of top-quality British coal, but the

Government has said it wants to change that to less expensive coal, much of which is imported from Korea and China. For those who cannot obtain the cheaper coal it will mean less fuel. Peter McNestry, the national secretary of Nacods, the pit deputies union, believes a recalculation could cost pensioners and widows up to £150 a year.

The move is expected to spark a fresh confrontation between miners and the Government when it is discussed by both sides at the Department of Trade and Industry next

month. It could also lead to a court challenge on the legality of breaking the pledge given by Tim Eggar, the minister responsible for the coal industry in the last Government.

The DTI has told miners' leaders that coal entitlements are to be "rebalanced" to keep in line with European law. John Barle, the Energy Minister, said that there was "an urgent need" to have new arrangements in place by April.

Mr McNestry said: "This will hit people very hard. Some old people depend on it to get through the winter."

There is a perception that this is free coal. It isn't. Miners gave up pay increases to get this benefit."

He said Mr Eggar, the Conservative Energy Minister, had given a pledge that the Government would safeguard the concessionary fuel entitlements of British Coal.

Pat Carragher, the general secretary of the British Association of Colliery Management, said: "This is clearly an attempt to save money despite an agreement with the last Government."

Scargill disqualified, page 6



A victory for gloom over comfort and joy

IT WOULD take (to misquote Dr Johnson) a surgical operation to get rid of the understanding of a Member of Parliament. MPs gathered yesterday for their last day's proceedings before Christmas, to question the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, and to remind each other, and Britain, what a wicked old world this is.

The closest anyone came to seasonal jollity was when Bob Laxton (Lab, Derby N) presented Madam Speaker with a single, rather ranky-looking, Christmas stocking. It was empty. Apparently it had come from his constituents, David and Mary, in Derby. Mr Laxton held up this questionable offering, dangling limply from one

hand, as Betty Boothroyd did her best to fix her features into that "just what I always wanted" expression.

Invited to join this first gesture of new Labour's Giving Age, the pleasantly understated junior minister Alun Michael looked doubtful and glanced nervously at Miss Boothroyd. "As there is only one stocking, Madam Speaker, and as it is empty, I assume it is to be filled by Father Christmas, and not by Madam Speaker's leg..." He trailed off.

Miss Boothroyd looked tolerant, but faintly unamused. It is really not done to mention Madam Speaker's legs, either of them, in the chamber. The only part of Madam Speaker we may



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

mention with impunity is her eye, which members strive assiduously to catch.

The House moved to Question 3, which seemed to promise more. Sir Teddy Taylor (C, Rochford and Southend E) wanted to know about licensing hours.

Assuming that Sir Teddy's seasonal wish was to add to the national stock of jollity, George Howarth, a Home Office junior minister, answered as though anticipating a request for opening hours to be relaxed. Mr Howarth may have misread

his own official portfolio title — "deregulation, drugs" — missed out the comma, and thought he was supposed to deregulate drugs. He said there was a case for longer hours for pubs but it must be balanced by the needs of neighbours.

Sir Teddy, of course, is an anti-European of the foam-flecked-tips tendency. Generous licensing hours are a continental phenomenon. Ergo (or, as Sir Teddy would not have it, *donec*)... well, you can guess. He lashed out at lax opening hours. There was

"huge concern" that they might be extended. Why didn't ministers concentrate on advertising "the dangers of alcohol"? Howarth scuttled for cover and agreed.

Ian Cawsey (Lab, Brigg & Goole) wanted to ask about "staggering". To giggles, he explained he meant staggering in the temporary sense: staggering hours, for instance, of nightclubs. We looked up at Mr Cawsey, momentarily hopeful that this might be an MP with a sense of fun. But no. "I must point out," he told the chair, "that I have no personal interest in the nightclubs industry. Those days are long gone."

Our last hope of merriment died when Peter Brooke (C, Cities of London & Westminster), usually a jovial soul, issued a gloomy complaint about relaxed drinking hours in Central London, which he said would spoil the metropolis for residents.

MPs went on to discuss crime, murder, road accidents, corruption, electronic tagging and identity cards. As this sketch departed the joyless scene for its own Christmas break, the House was awaiting the arrival of a statement on mad cow disease, held up by computer failure. Our much-vaunted Year of Change, which had begun with statements from ministers on the continuing problems of BSE, ended in the same way. *Plus ça change, if Sir Teddy will forgive me.*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Former policewoman sues over child care

A former policewoman is suing Tayside Police for compensation, claiming she was forced to quit her job because senior officers refused to acknowledge her responsibilities as a mother. Shirley Anderson, 31, alleges that male police officers do not face the same problems as their female counterparts because they are not recognised as the main child-carer in the family. She told an industrial tribunal in Dundee that her problems started last December when she disobeyed an order which would have meant there was no one to look after her year-old daughter.

Sun-seekers fly out

Holidaymakers in search of December sunshine flew out yesterday, as a rainy Christmas was forecast and the bookmakers William Hill lengthened the odds of a white Christmas to 10-1. Gatwick reported its busiest day of the winter. Over the next two weeks some 900,000 people are expected to take winter holidays, the two most popular destinations being Tenerife and the Costa del Sol in the south of Spain. Forecast, page 20

Burglars' lonely victim

An 80-year-old widower who died after a burglary at his home may have been unconscious for up to five days on his kitchen floor before being discovered by a neighbour last Saturday. Stephen Clayton, who lived alone on the Braesholme council estate in Hull, suffered a stroke which police believe may have been caused by the shock of either discovering the break-in or possibly confronting the burglars in his house.

Lockerbie trial ruling

Libya was under pressure last night to guarantee the appearance in court of two men accused of the Lockerbie bombing after a United Nations report concluded that they would receive a fair trial under Scottish law. The Crown Office in Edinburgh said: "Libya should now stop procrastinating and secure the appearance of the accused for trial." Monday was the ninth anniversary of the date on which 270 people died when Pan Am Flight 103 exploded.

Doubts of the Kirk

A survey by *The Scotsman* conducted last week found that 35 per cent of 150 Church of Scotland ministers questioned doubted the immaculate conception and virgin birth. All the ministers answered "Yes" when asked whether they believed Jesus was God come to earth. But a third answered "No" or "Don't know" to questions on whether God's Holy Spirit was responsible for the conception and whether Mary was a virgin when Jesus was born.

Water company praised

A water authority at the centre of a Government inquiry into how 54,000 people in the north of Glasgow were left without clean water for days, has been shortlisted for a quality award. West of Scotland Water was named as one of 19 organisations to be considered for a Convention of Scottish Local Authorities award. The Labour MP for Clydebank, Tony Worthington, said: "Surely they can have no chance in winning any award after their performance."

Hooligans lose appeal

A French appeal court confirmed sentences of eight months' imprisonment, with four months suspended, against three British football fans convicted of attacking a man in a Strasbourg street after the Strasbourg-Liverpool match that Liverpool lost 3-0. Matthew Godden, 21, a shop assistant, James Kerr, a sports shop manager, and Paul Roach, a roofer, have been in prison since October 22, the day after the match.

Season of inefficiency

Heavy drinking before Christmas is taking its toll on the economy, according to a report. Almost two thirds of the 140 firms surveyed by the London Chamber of Commerce reported productivity losses because employees were overindulging. Illness, lack of concentration and impaired powers of judgment were all cited as factors undermining performance, said Simon Sperry, the chamber's chief executive.

Neil Kinnock

In a leading article on party funding (November 16) we referred to Neil Kinnock, as Leader of the Opposition, finding "himself in Robert Maxwell's debt to his discomfort". It was not meant to suggest that either Mr Kinnock or his private office, as opposed to the Labour Party, received any financial donations from Mr Maxwell, and we regret any misunderstanding.

Hague on video to break with the past

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM HAGUE has delivered his Christmas broadcast to the Tory faithful with a promise of the biggest shake-up of the party in more than 100 years.

The Tory leader, who was filmed standing next to a Christmas tree at Conservative Central Office, talked for three-and-a-half minutes without a script to announce the largest public consultation exercise the party has undertaken. The film, complete with a copy of his only party political broadcast since he became Tory leader, has been sent to every Tory association. It has been dubbed William's Christmas Cracker at Conservative Central Office.

The three-month Listening to Britain campaign, which has echoes of a previous Labour exercise, will be conducted in town halls, community centres, and village halls. It will be led by members of the Shadow Cabinet. In his broadcast, Mr Hague promises that the Tories will listen and not lecture, and put right what people thought was wrong with the party.

In a break with the traditional written Christmas message of Tory leaders Mr Hague recorded his video address shortly before his wedding. In it he said: "In the new year we are going to launch Listening to Britain: the biggest exercise we have ever mounted in making sure that our MPs are listening to, and in touch with, the people of this country."

The exercise is in response to the admission by the Tory leadership that the party had become woefully out of touch with ordinary voters at the last election. They will consult with doctors, nurses, teachers and other organisations which felt alienated after 18 years of Tory rule. "We understand

why we lost. People thought we had become arrogant, that we had become sleazy, that we did not listen, and that we were out of touch. So we have to put those things right," Mr Hague added.

He said that in 1998 they would complete the biggest reorganisation of the party since Benjamin Disraeli. "We are going to make it a much more attractive proposition to join the Conservative Party. We are going to involve the members much more in our party. We are going to give them a vote in the affairs of our party," he said.

The Labour leadership under Neil Kinnock staged the "Labour Listens" campaign after the Thatcher landslide election victory in 1987. The Tories deny that they have copied Labour.

They maintained that they are anxious to consult the public widely as Peter Lilley, the Shadow chancellor, begins the task of reviewing every policy pledge and commitment. It is a move which also has echoes of Tony Blair who dumped policies which he feared could alienate voters in Middle England.

The consultation will involve pressure groups and community organisations. "We will talk to party activists as well. But we are determined to reach out," said a Tory official.

□ Dame Shirley Porter, the former leader of Westminster City Council, should be stripped of her title, the Commons was told yesterday as Tories were urged to condemn her for her part in the "homes for votes" affair. No Conservatives rose at question time either to condemn or defend the Tesco heiress who was condemned by the High Court on Friday of being guilty of "wilful misconduct".



Gordon Brown yesterday: "The welfare state in recent years has absorbed more cash but not relieved poverty"

Brown justifies reforms

Continued from page 1

those who need it most." He added: "There will be no backing down from the need to modernise our welfare state. We will not be diverted from the need to make the reforms that are necessary. For 20 years inequalities and poverty have worsened in our society while social security resources grew."

The test of Labour's reforms would be whether there was more opportunity and less poverty in the years to come. But the review, he said, started not from some cuts-driven agenda but from the "hard truths" of the failure of the welfare state in recent years as it had absorbed more money but not relieved poverty.

His general message was unbending. For millions of people the welfare state was failing: 3.5 million households containing people of working age had no one earning a wage; three million children were being brought up in workless households. It was hardly

surprising that child poverty had risen dramatically. "The welfare state is failing millions of people who depend upon it and at the same time millions who contribute towards it."

Labour would not realise the 1945 Beveridge principles — opportunity and security for all — without making major reforms that tackled the causes of poverty.

It was pressing ahead with the welfare-to-work programme to enable those who could work to have work. "We are moving ahead with reforms that will make work pay. We will not be diverted from our determination to ensure that we have a better system to reward work through the tax and benefit system so that we move from a society where large numbers of people believe they are better off out of work, even though they are in poverty, to a system where people are better off in work." But the Government was also determined that all those who were in need of an incapable of work were properly

provided for. Mr Brown said that he had insisted that all areas of public expenditure were examined to ensure that where public resources were provided they went to those who needed them most.

Asked whether the process had not got off to a dreadful start because of the lone parent deficit and reports of Cabinet divisions, Mr Brown said: "It will take some people time to get used to the idea that defending the status quo is not the best way forward." Did he believe there was a will in the party and the Cabinet for change after the Government's recent difficulties? "Indeed I do," he replied. "People are coming to understand that the dividing line between doing nothing and betrayal is outdated."

Mr Brown tried to play down the Blunkett letter. "David has made absolutely clear he is 100 per cent behind the comprehensive review led by Tony Blair."

Letters, page 17

Beef farm cuts

Continued from page 1
ing £25 million, 25 per cent funded by the EU, would come in the form of increased hill livestock compensatory allowances for 1998. Farmers estimate the package is worth an average of £800 a year to an average lowland suckler cow producer and £1,400 to a hill farmer with 38 cows.

Dr Cunningham said that the inquiry into the "national human tragedy" of BSE was essential. BSE had "literally been a disaster". He said the Government was not interested in using the inquiry as a political point-scoring exercise.

Lord Justice Phillips and his team, the make-up of which will be announced in the next few days, will be asked to report on the effectiveness of the Government's response and to report by the end of December next year.

Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, the last Labour prime minister, Baroness Thatcher and John Major may be called to give evidence. Tony Blair has written to William Hague, Lord Callaghan, Lady Thatcher and John Major to ask them to release any necessary papers. Ministers would answer to the House after the inquiry's report.

The Tories attacked the announcements, which Michael Jack, the shadow agriculture spokesman, said was a victory for the Treasury. "You

have failed British agriculture," he said. Mr Cunningham.

Farmers last night promised their full support for the BSE inquiry, despite misgivings about the wisdom of holding it now. They said the £85 million package would bring "much-needed relief".

But they said the assistance fell far short of what was needed, and are to hold a rally in London in mid-January. They will press the Government to which they say they are entitled as compensation for the strong pound.

Sir David Naish, the president of the National Farmers' Union, said the inquiry would have his "full co-operation", but voiced concern that it might offer the European Union a further excuse to postpone lifting the ban on British beef. "The progress already made in the European arena must not be delayed," he said.

He said the NFU would welcome the opportunity to discuss a restructuring of the beef industry, and an early retirement scheme for farmers, but warned Dr Cunningham that current EU schemes were insufficiently funded. Farmers in the South West, one of the regions worst hit by the beef crisis, dismissed the aid package as inadequate and predicted more farmers' protests in the New Year.

Would-be Briton who is still cold-shouldered

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

HE OWNS Harrods, the Ritz in Paris, the Duke of Windsor's former home in Paris and through his sponsorship of the Royal Windsor Horse Show has contact with the Queen.

But despite Mohamed Al Fayed's avid courtship of the Establishment, he looked like being forever the outsider.

It provides some solace for Mr Al Fayed at the end of four traumatic months after the deaths of his son, Dodi and Diana, Princess of Wales.

His reaction in the aftermath of that tragedy provides an example of why he is viewed with such suspicion and hostility. On the eve of the Princess's funeral it was disclosed that he had passed her last words to a member of her family and that he had requested that a silver plaque inscribed with a poem written for the Princess be placed in her coffin.

Controversy has surrounded

MAN IN THE NEWS



Al Fayed: the outsider

ed Mr Al Fayed, 64, ever since his purchase of Harrods in 1985. Tiny Rowland had sold his stake in House of Fraser, then owners of Harrods, wrongly assuming the Fayed's did not possess the financial resources to bid for the whole group.

Mr Rowland's case was that Mohamed Al Fayed had made up his past and lied about his wealth. Instead of being the son of a distinguished Egyptian family, he was the son of a

schoolteacher who had used the Sultan of Brunei's money to purchase the House of Fraser.

In 1987, the Department of Trade and Industry ordered an inquiry into his acquisition of the House of Fraser. Three years later the DTI report was published. It accused the brothers of lying to the City, press, DTI and their own advisers about their origins, their wealth, their business interests and their resources.

Mr Al Fayed has lived in this country for 30 years, pays £3 million taxes a year, nurtures and restores British institutions, has donated huge amounts of cash to charities that care for children, courted MPs in Parliament and yet remains a foreigner in the land he professes to love.

He then sought revenge and won in spectacular fashion in the cash for questions affair. His allegations that he paid thousands of pounds stuffed in plain brown envelopes to Tory MPs to ask questions on his behalf led to the downfall of former ministers Neil Hamilton and Tim Smith.

Even if Mr Al Fayed eventually wins his much-sought British citizenship, it is unlikely that he will ever be accepted by the Establishment.

To all owners of NEC G9 or G9D+ Mobile Phones.

Members of the public who own a NEC G9 or G9D+ mobile phone, together with a rapid charger manufactured by Potrans are advised of additional safety precautions. The advice is given in order to avoid risk of the battery charger overheating.

- Unplug the Potrans battery charger when not in use
- Only recharge the phone for up to 1.5 hours
- Only use the charger with NEC G9 or G9D+ mobile phones

Owners of G9 or G9D+ mobile phones can identify if they have a Potrans rapid battery charger by looking at the silver label (example shown, right) and model number details which state MRD-ADM-0004-05 (made in Taiwan or China).

If you require further information or advice, please call our customer care line on 01932 237188.

NEC(UK) Ltd, NEC House, 1 Victoria Road, London W3 6BL

NEC

MRD-ADM-0004-05 +5-6-6-6
INPUT 100V-240V-50/60Hz 250mA
OUTPUT 12V 0.8A 10W CP010111228

10870045939

I.T.E. PRODUCT

MADE IN TAIWAN R.O.C. 9735

Teenage bully says 'I still love my parents'

By Peter Foster

A VIOLENT teenager whose parents took court action to ban him from the family home after he threatened them with a knife, says he still loves them.

Robert Foraker, 19, is forbidden by a court order from contacting his mother and father who called in police after he threatened to attack them last month. After he was released from custody yesterday he said: "I love them both very much, but I just can't live with them."

He had just sentenced to six months' probation by magistrates at Middlesbrough, Cumbria, for causing criminal damage and threatening violence against his father. After the hearing he stood on a roundabout two miles from his parents' house, hitching a lift to Bury St Edmunds where he plans to spend Christmas.

The outburst last month in which Foraker smashed a window, a lavatory and a mobile phone was the last straw for his parents Robert and Margaret. At an earlier hearing magistrates were told how Foraker's violent outbursts against his parents had escalated out of control. He was arrested on November 12

and later appeared before magistrates on eight charges of harassment and one of criminal damage to property worth more than £300.

The court heard how Foraker had constantly bullied and threatened his parents, with two incidents in October and five more in November. He was also charged with breaching a court order relating to an earlier assault on his father.

In June this year he was sentenced to two years' probation for common assault. Two months later, in August, he was given one day's detention for theft and failing to answer bail, the court heard.

After the hearing Foraker, an only child, admitted he had behaved badly, claiming that he had become "so frustrated" when living at home. His father, an American who works as an administrative officer at Middlesbrough air base, said after his son's conviction earlier this month that he had no option but to call the police.

"What he has done is wrong, but I don't want him to go to prison any more than I would anyone else's son," he added.

Foraker, who says he has been at odds with his parents

since he first began taking drugs at the age of 11 is not hopeful of an early reconciliation. "My parents are good people and they are good to me. I love them both very much, mum and dad, but I just can't live with them," he said.

Mr and Mrs Foraker live in the village of Tuddenham-St Mary which sits in between the cluster of RAF bases where they both work. According to their son, they met in the 1960s when Mr Foraker, now a retired master sergeant in the US Air Force, was stationed in Britain. The family have lived in England since moving from America when their son was about four years old. They now live in a smart flint exterior cottage with a sizable back garden.

After his release yesterday the slim teenager, who spent more than five weeks in Norwich jail on remand, could not say exactly how, why or when his relationship with his parents had broken down.

"I suppose I've been in trouble ever since I started taking drugs when I was 11. But I don't do any of that now."

Foraker, who is well spoken and occasionally apologises unnecessarily for his manners, identified a turning point after taking an overdose 2½ years ago and ending up in hospital. "Things have never been the same since. I have just a different attitude to everything," he said. Since then Foraker said he had fought endlessly with his parents. The five weeks he spent in prison were, he said, "terrible".

During the brief hearing yesterday, George Peacock, his solicitor, said both sides had cause to regret the current impasse. "His parents are concerned for his wellbeing and his future and want him to get some help."

Mr Foraker, who was not in court yesterday, said the whole episode with his son had become "a nightmare".



Robert Foraker leaves court yesterday after being sentenced to further probation



The family home Robert Foraker is banned from

Bomber adds real hazard to golfers' 14th green

By Paul Wilkinson

THE par-four 14th at Skipton Golf Club has more hazards than most. Normally, bunkers and the Ellerbeck stream close to the green on the 343-yard hole are the only obstacles members have to face, but recently players have had to face the prospect of an unknown bomber cratering the green.

In the past year the 14th has been damaged more than ten times with a device similar to warning detonators used on the railway. Each blast leaves a deep divot, which needs careful refilling, seeding and rolling.

Gary Potter, the course manager at the 103-year-old North Yorkshire club, said: "Whether it's an ex-member who has been dismissed or someone who has been refused membership, I don't know. Whatever they use, it blows a hole about six inches deep into our green and there is always grass everywhere. If something is not done, we're worried that the situation could get worse with more greens being targeted."

"We always find traces of a detonator-type device left lying around, along with tapers. It is really baffling. If the situation continues then the club will be looking into the possibility of installing cameras."

The first incident was in May and then there were two or three in June and another three in July and just one in August. Then we had nothing until the other week. We went out on to the 14th and there was the big hole.

"We wondered if it was a disgruntled employee or someone fed up with getting high scores on the 14th, but we think it's more likely to be young lads."

Inspector Chris Chelton of Skipton police admitted they were baffled. Police agree youngsters are probably responsible, but they accept the bomber could be someone with a grudge.

The incident does have a silver lining, however. Mr Potter said: "It has cured the mole problem down there. They must be terrified."



Helen Proffit

Murder fears grow after fire suicide

By Simon de Brunelles

FEARS are growing for a young mother whose boyfriend blew himself up in an apparent suicide.

Helen Proffit, 29, a social worker, disappeared a week ago, after going to a Christmas dance with Mark Coldrick, whose body was found dead beside his burnt-out car in a quarry two days later. When police went to his home in Newport, Gwent, they found the house empty and the couple's bedroom heavily blood-stained.

A search has failed to find any trace of Mrs Proffit, a divorced mother of two who was a popular youth worker in Newport. Police divers are searching a pool at Ithon Quarry, near Caldicot, where Mr Coldrick killed himself with a petrol bomb.

Detectives fear Mrs Proffit might have died in a violent row after they returned home last Tuesday night. They believe Mr Coldrick, 30, an aircraft engineer, might have disposed of her body at the quarry before returning to the same spot to take his own life.

Mr Coldrick left his wife, also called Helen, and their two-year-old son to move in with his lover ten weeks ago. Neighbours say the pair had a volatile relationship.

Detective Superintendent Des James said: "There was a massive amount of blood in the rear bedroom, on the walls and on the furniture, which suggests that someone was violently injured. If any of their friends or relatives know anything we want them to come forward."

Dismissed university chief to sue

By Paul Wilkinson

A FORMER university principal who resigned after a number of his academic qualifications were discovered to be false yesterday announced that he is to sue for unfair dismissal.

The Rev Dr Duane Wade-Hampton Arnold, who resigned last January from St Chad's College in Durham after discrepancies were disclosed in his published list of academic qualifications, is going to an industrial tribunal over his belief that he was forced out by a whispering campaign. His wife, Janet, who was employed as the university's director of development, has also lodged a claim with the tribunal.

However, the college, an independent foundation within the university, controlled by the Church of England, has filed a counter-claim, demanding the return of money allegedly spent without authority by Dr Arnold during his brief tenure of the principal's post.

Dr Arnold, 44, became instantly controversial on his appointment in 1994 to the post when a number of senior staff left soon after his arrival.

Let paralysed bowler settle here, says MP

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

AN MP is backing the attempt of Winston Davis, the former West Indies cricketer, to be readmitted to Britain after he became paralysed from the neck down when he fell from a mango tree.

David Lock, the Labour MP for Wyre Forest, is asking the Government to waive rules which could prevent Mr Davis, 39, who played professional cricket here for 15 years, from living in Bewdley, near Worcester, with his British wife, Patricia, 38, and their five-year-old daughter, Jessica. Mr Davis, who represented Glamorgan and Northamptonshire for nine seasons and played professional league cricket, has applied for entry to the British High Commission in New York.

This would usually be refused because Mr Davis would depend on support from the NHS. Since the accident on November 1, Davis has been in hospital, in St Vincent and then in Miami, where his medical bills are nearly £400,000.

The former fast-bowler, who played in 15 Tests and 35 one-day internationals in the

all-conquering West Indies teams of the 1980s, fell from the tree when he was carrying out voluntary land-clearing work on a site where a church is being built in Villa, the village in St Vincent where he was born. Mr Davis had climbed into the tree to saw off some branches when he was struck by a falling branch.

He had been planning to leave his with a shipping company next spring, so that he



Winston Davis and his daughter, Jessica

could live in Britain with his wife, who is a bank clerk. Mr Lock said: "Winston is a quadriplegic and it raises difficult policy decisions because he is somebody who, in the short term, will make demands on the NHS. But I am sure that, in the long term, he will be a net contributor to UK society."

"Winston spent 15 years providing great entertainment and paying tax and national insurance. If he is not allowed treatment here, he will not get it anywhere and the family will never be together. Such treatment does not exist in the Caribbean, and it's unbelievably expensive in America."

His wife said: "Doctors have told me it's the type of injury suffered by Christopher Reeve [the actor who played Superman]. The last couple of weeks his spirits have gone a little. But he is a positive person. On his good days Winston says 'I'm going to walk out of this hospital'; this is the spirit I want him to keep."

She hopes that he will be able to resume his career as a cricket commentator.

Cricket, page 37

OED fights the negaholics

Philip Delves Broughton on words that may not pass the test of time

THE English language is under siege. At its gates are marketing men brandishing new words and phrases including "adultescent", "fluffragette", "negaholic" and "virtual desking".

Fortunately, the compilers of the Oxford English Dictionary, who have catalogued the year's new words and phrases, reckon that few of them will stand the test of time.

As long as they are around, however, it may be worth knowing that an "adultescent" is someone between 35 and 45 addicted to youth culture, a "fluffragette" is a woman with pre-feminist role models, and a "negaholic" someone with a face like a week of rain and an attitude to match. "Virtual desking" describes those who use the Internet to work from home. A "shruggist" is someone who looks

at a computer and thinks "life's too short", rather like an "Internet". The computer-addicted teenager is deemed to be a "screenager".

The Labour Party has much to answer for. The terms "on message" and "off message", to describe whether or not someone is toying the party line, were popularised during the election, as was the word "prebital", denoting an accusation before it is even made, though someone clearly forgot to fill in Geoffrey Robinson on its use.

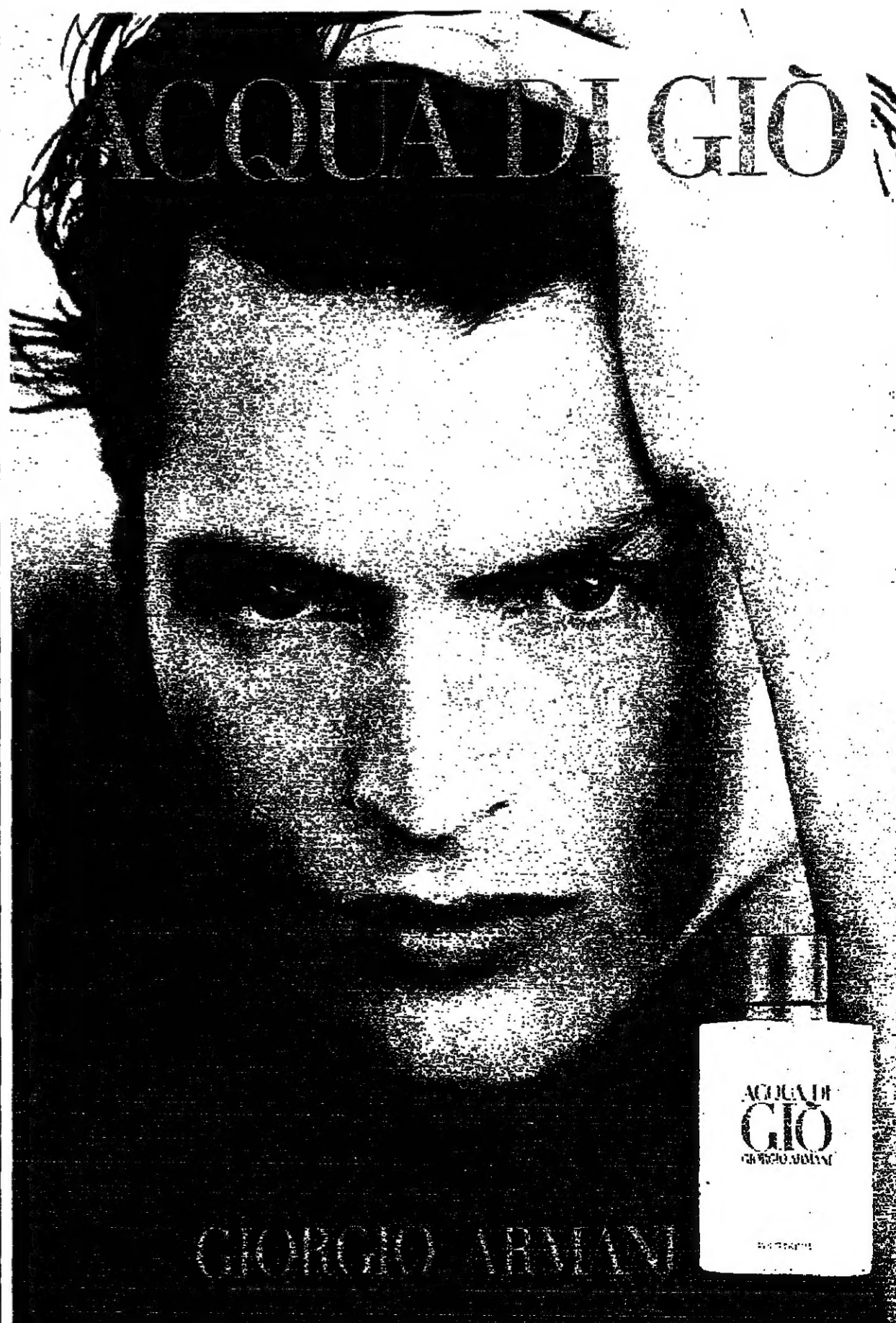
Labour is also guilty of the politicisation of the words "new", as in "new Labour, new Britain", and "people's", as in the "people's Princess", and a "people's banquet" on the Queen's birthday.

Among the other new phrases of 1997, to "Gordon Brown" is to wear a

lounge suit when more formal attire is requested. "Economy Class Syndrome" is the development of a blood clot on the back of the thigh from spending too much time in cheap aeroplane seats, and the "Sandwich Generation" are those who find themselves looking after ageing relatives and young children at the same time.

Michael Proffitt, of the OED, says: "We look to see which ones have endured the test of time and most do not. They have to show evidence of passing into the language more permanently. Many of them are short-term marketing expressions."

It would be a depressing day if scholars a hundred years on opened the dictionary, and between "teletransport" and "teletype" found the word "Teletubby".



Glitch in computer delays speech

By Andrew Pierce

THE long-awaited statement on BSE was delayed embarrassingly because of a computer failure in the private office of Dr Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister.

The Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, suspended the sitting for 15 minutes because of the breakdown. It was thought to be the first time in parliamentary history that such an important statement was delayed because of a technical hitch.

By convention the Opposition front bench is given 15 minutes to study the text of an important statement with the exception of the Budget. But the only copy of the statement was contained in the Windows computer system in Dr Cunningham's office which collapsed at 3pm, making it impossible to comply with the usual practice.

Hill farmer in front line of the beef crisis

A whole British way of life is under threat as new subsidy cuts and the strong pound spell the end of the hill men, reports Michael Hornsby

HILL farmers are on the front line of the crisis in the beef industry and large tracts of the most beautiful upland regions of Britain would cease to be farmed if they were exposed to the full rigours of the marketplace.

Some 70,000 farmers in the hills, almost entirely reliant on the rearing of cattle and sheep, depend largely for their survival on subsidies provided by the Government and the European Union which Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, said yesterday must eventually be scaled down.

Richard Barter, who keeps 116 Hereford-cross beef cows and 300 ewes on 297 acres near Bowley Tracey on the edge of Dartmoor, is a fairly typical victim of the Government's policies.

In his early forties, he runs the farm with his wife, Jane, who also has to look after their three young boys, aged five, eight and ten. When their last farm hand left in October, 1996, they decided not to replace him. Mr Barter said: "The one-off aid Dr Cunningham

has announced will bring welcome short-term relief. We reckon it will mean an extra payment of £47 per cow, which will certainly ease the cash flow. But our long-term problems remain."

Mr Barter reckons his farm generated an income of about £15,000 last year, but this year that could fall to between £7,000 and £8,000, in line with a national decline in farm incomes of up to 47 per cent forecast by the Ministry of Agriculture. "My accountant has already told us that we will not have to pay any income tax this year because our earnings will be too low," he said. "There are lots worse off than me. At least I do not have an overdraft." He and

his wife specialise in rearing steers to the age of about 20 months and then selling them on to other farmers. They sold their most recent batch of 10 steers four weeks ago, accepting a price that was £200 a head lower than similar animals fetched a year ago.

Mr Barter's problem, like many farming in what the bureaucrats call "less favoured areas", is that up to half his income, even in a good year, comes from subsidy rather than the price his produce fetches.

"If the subsidy went, there is no way we could survive, at least as full-time farmers. At best I might be able to hang on by taking a job outside farming and running the farm

part-time." He and others like him are kept afloat by a whole range of payments.

There are suckler cow premiums (paid per cow), beef special premiums (paid on male calves), sheep annual premiums (paid per ewe) and hill livestock compensatory amounts, a special top-up available only to those in the hills. The strong pound not only makes making imported beef and lamb cheaper and more competitive, forcing down local prices.

It also, crucially, reduces the sterling value of EU subsidies, which are fixed in ecus, and have to be converted into national money.

Over the past two years, because of the strong pound, Mr Barter has seen the value of the suckler cow premium drop from £124 to about £114, although this will now be increased by the special one-off aid to about £160. The beef special premium has come down from £93 to about £84, and the sheep annual premium has nearly halved, from just over £21 in 1995 to £11.50.



Hill farmer Richard Barter, who says he may be forced to take an outside job

Moderniser will bring a sure touch

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

WHATEVER the outcome of the inquiry into BSE announced yesterday by the Government, Lord Justice Phillips is likely to handle it with the same deftness of touch that won him plaudits for his handling of the Maxwell trial.

Mr Justice Phillips — by then nicknamed the "Rolls-Royce" judge — was promoted mid-way through the trial to the Court of Appeal.

Likeable and witty, Nicholas Phillips is a moderniser. He introduced a series of innovations to make proceedings in the Maxwell trial as manageable and comprehensible to jurors as possible. Despite the furor over the acquittals of the brothers, the judge was widely held to have created a blueprint for the way to run such trials in future.

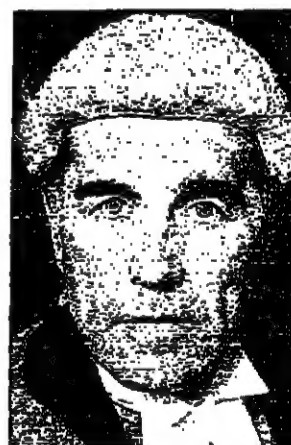
Richard Lissack, QC, one of the leading prosecuting counsel, said at the time: "He has been the single greatest influence on the trial. His conduct has been faultless." Mr Lissack singled out the judge's "temperament, his patience and attention to detail" coupled with his "fairness to everyone: counsel, defendants, witnesses, the jury, the press".

Lord Justice Phillips, who drew praise also for his handling of the Barlow Clowes trial in 1991, has long a "hands-on" style of judge who takes as grip of the proceedings — a role judges will be expected to adopt when the civil justice reforms proposed by Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, are implemented. The

judge broke new ground by introducing a new court day of 9.30am to 1.30pm, with afternoons reserved for legal argument. Jurors did not have to concentrate all day and were saved from having to keep going in and out of court while counsel discussed legal points in their absence.

He also provided the jury with a summary of his summing-up, and — as a new technology buff — ensured full use of the computer system in court. The defendant's sat, American style, alongside their lawyers.

He attended Bryanston School and King's College, Cambridge, before national service in the Royal Navy. Once called to the Bar, in 1962, he built up a shipping and admiralty practice, taking silk in 1978. He became a judge in 1987.



Lord Justice Phillips: likeable and witty

BSE IN BRITAIN

- 1985 — April: Vet called to a farm in Kent to examine cow behaving oddly. Later recognised as probably first case of BSE.
- 1986 — Nov: Government scientists make first official diagnosis of BSE.
- 1987 — June: Ministers told about existence of BSE. Experiments to test transmissibility of disease to mice are started. Oct: Veterinary Record reports appearance of BSE in four cattle herds, the first public reference to the disease. Dec: Epidemiologists say cattle feed containing remains of sheep infected with scrapie most likely cause of BSE.
- 1988 — April: Working party set up under Professor Sir Richard Southwood of Oxford University to report to Government on BSE implications. July: Ban on feeding cattle or sheep with meat-and-bone meal derived from the same animals. Aug: Government orders slaughter and destruction of all cattle showing symptoms of BSE. Farmers compensated at 50 per cent of market value (later raised to 100 per cent).
- 1989 — Feb: Southwood report published. Says BSE risk to humans "remote" but cannot be ruled out. Estimates eventual number size of cattle deaths at between 17,000 and 25,000. Dec: Ban on consumption of brain, spinal cord and other specified offals introduced.
- 1990 — Jan: Offal ban extended to Scotland.
- 1991 — Mar: European Commission bans exports to the Continent of British cattle over six months old. April: European Commission bans export from Britain of specified offals. May: First case of spongiform encephalopathy reported in a cat. Pet food made from BSE-infected offal later confirmed as cause. Sept: Specified offals banned from all animal feed.
- 1992: Peak year for BSE in cattle, with 36,682 confirmed cases.
- 1993 — July: Total cattle deaths from BSE reach 100,000.
- 1994 — Nov: Thymus and intestines added to list of specified offals. All mammalian protein banned from cattle and sheep feed.
- 1995: First three humans deaths from new-variant CJD.
- 1996 — March: Government announces that "most likely explanation" for new-variant CJD was "exposure to BSE before the offal ban in 1989". Beef prices plummet. EU bans all British beef exports, a trade worth £520 million a year. Number of deaths from new-variant CJD reach 13 by end of year. July: Government announces stricter controls on slaughter of sheep after scientists report "theoretical risk" that BSE might have passed to sheep and be disguised as scrapie.
- 1997 — May: Incoming Labour Government says it hopes to ease beef export ban by less confrontational approach with rest of EU. Ban still in place at end of year. Dec: Jack Cunningham, Agriculture Minister, bans beef on the bone after scientists find infectivity in nervous tissue in spinal columns of BSE-infected cattle and possibly also in bone marrow.

OUR BIGGEST SALE ON HOMEBASE KITCHENS.

UP TO
50% OFF
SELECTED KITCHENS
sale

SAVE UP TO 50% ON
SELECTED HOMEBASE
KITCHENS

We'll even plan your kitchen with you
and deliver it free to your home.*

FREE CREDA
DISHWASHER WORTH
£500

If you spend over £4,000
we'll give you this Creda Dishwasher
worth £500, absolutely free.

Or spend £2,500 and we'll give it to
you for half price.

10% OFF ALL SINKS*

We're offering 10% off any sink of
your choice from the
Homebase Kitchen Collection.

BUY NOW AND
PAY NOTHING UNTIL
SUMMER 1998

You don't have to pay anything until
Summer 1998 - not even a deposit**

FOR DETAILS OF
YOUR NEAREST HOMEBASE
KITCHEN SHOWROOM
TELEPHONE 0645 801 800.

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE

HOMEBASE

MONDAY-THURSDAY 8AM - 8PM • FRIDAY 8AM - 9PM • SATURDAY 8AM - 8PM • SUNDAY 10AM - 4PM (SCOTLAND 9AM - 6PM) • TUESDAY 23RD DECEMBER 8AM - 8PM
CHRISTMAS EVE 8AM - 6PM • CHRISTMAS DAY CLOSED • BOXING DAY SCOTLAND 10AM - 5PM (ENGLAND AND WALES CLOSED) • SATURDAY 27TH DECEMBER 8AM - 8PM.
OPENING TIMES MAY VARY. PLEASE CALL 0645 801 800 DURING OFFICE HOURS FOR DETAILS OF YOUR NEAREST STORE.

*The kitchens included in this promotion are: 50% off Berwick Premier Carcase and Rulland Classic Carcase, 40% off Nice Premier Carcase, 20% off Oslo Premier Carcase, Cologne Premier Carcase and Evesham Classic Carcase; and 10% off Boston Premier Carcase, Letbury Premier Carcase and Winton Classic Carcase. Discounts do not include installation. The fully fitted ranges in this promotion are: 40% off Blenheim Premier Carcase and Madrid Premier Carcase, 10% off Ludlow Premier Carcase and includes installation. Fully fitted kitchens are subject to survey, additional work such as tiling, additional sockets, plastering, lighting and old kitchen disposal are not included. Full details available in-store. Tbuilt-in Model 4791A/7 costs £500 when purchased separately. Includes fascia. **Offer applies to sinks purchased from the Homebase Kitchen Collection only. **On 1st June 1998 pay in full or take credit. Written quotations on request from Homebase Limited, Beedington House, Wallington, Surrey SM6 6HB. Homebase are licensed credit brokers. Loans subject to status and approval and are not available to anyone under 21 years. Example: a kitchen costing £1,500. Pay in 36 monthly repayments of £57.62. Total amount repayable £2,074.32 (24.9% are variable). Spend 5 Save Cards cannot be used on kitchen purchases. Products and offers may vary in N. Ireland and Eire.

هكذا من العمل

Girls complain after teachers go to strip show

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A CHRISTMAS outing by boarding school mistresses to see a male strip show has shaken the Victorian foundations of one of the country's leading girls' schools.

Some of the girls at £12,000-a-year Godolphin School in Salisbury have complained after hearing that a dozen staff had gone to see the *Chippendales*.

One pupil at the 270-year-old school, whose old girls include the novelist Jilly Cooper, said: "You can imagine the reaction if this was a boys' school, where housemasters went to a strip show. The parents won't like this at all, nor do the girls."

However, the old girls contacted by *The Times* did not appear too shocked. Delphine Duder, an 80-year-old committee member of the Old Godolphin Association, who attended the school from 1929-35, said it was quite wrong for girls to pry into staff affairs. She said: "We were all in awe of the staff, naturally, in those days one was. I still think that what they do has nothing to do with the girls."

Jacqui Lang, president of the Girls' Schools Association,

said the teachers were perfectly entitled to their celebration after the end of term. She said: "Everybody's been to see *The Full Monty*, haven't they? I would have thought it was pretty harmless stuff and it is just supposed to be a laugh. I don't think children should be encouraged to contact the media for this kind of thing. If the teachers had left the girls it would be a different matter, but once term has finished I think it is up to staff how they spend their leisure time."

Godolphin prides itself on an exemplary academic reputation and came top of the GCSE table in Wiltshire this year. The 430-pupil school, motto *Francis Leo Eto Ge* (Frankness and Loyalty Be Yours) — was founded in 1726 and moved to its present Victorian and modern buildings in 1891. It is also well-regarded for the strength of its theatrical productions and recently opened a purpose-built performing arts centre.

Judy Nathan, the school's spokeswoman, dismissed complaints about the teachers' behaviour as "mischief-making". She said the outing was during the school holidays last Thursday and did not involve any of the pupils. There would be no disciplinary action against any of those involved.

Mrs Nathan added: "Twelve female members of staff attended the performance. It is a perfectly harmless show for anyone to go and see. It was a perfectly respectable evening. It took place during the holidays and in their own time."

Carl Leighton-Pope, who runs the *Chippendales*, said the show was aimed at all women and sometimes three generations, grandmother, mother and daughter, would be in the audience. The 20-strong troupe of singers and dancers, who make up the

Chippendales features eight strippers.

Mr Leighton-Pope added: "Nothing lewd happens at all, although there may be some scenes which would make a housemistress blush. It is all done in the best possible taste."

Asked whether the eight strippers actually did a "full monty", he replied: "It is a trick of the light."

A spokesman for the City Hall in Salisbury described the *Chippendales* show as "good clean fun". It lasted two hours and 900 women and just one man made up the audience who paid £13.50 each for tickets.

He added: "The men stripped to their underwear and then the lights went out. It always goes down a storm. All the women were cheering and chanting as it went on. It was exotic dancing."



Against the odds: Helen Beard with her husband David and mother Sylvia, and children Harry and Emily

Family whose numbers came up

By PAUL WHITTAKER

A FAMILY has beaten odds of a million to one with a sequence of birthdays. The birth of Emily on the 12th day of the 12th month at 12 minutes past 12 noon has completed a string of extraordinary coincidences for the Beard family of Gosport, Hampshire.

Emily's father, David, was born on the 4th day of the 4th month at 4.40pm, her mother, Helen, entered the world on the 10th of the 10th, her brother Harry on the 6th of the 6th, and her maternal grandmother, Sylvia, arrived on the 11th of the 11th.

The sequence has been rated a million-to-one chance by Ladbrokes. Mr Beard, a heating engineer, said: "Emily was supposed to be born at 10am. But there were complications so they put the birth back."

"When I rang my mum to tell her, she said I'd been born at 4.40. That's when we realised how weird it was."

A COMPANY THAT SURPASSES THE LIMITS OF SPEED HAD TO BECOME

THE HI-SPEED COMPANY

Modern business demands ever-faster solutions. So to ensure that we remain at the leading-edge to provide these, we've changed. Worldwide, Alcatel now combines Hi-Tech with something equally important. We call it Hi-Speed, and it's designed to keep you ahead. In the UK alone, 3,000 people with expertise in batteries, cables, engineering & systems and telecommunications are eager to help you. To find out how, contact: malcolm.butler@abs.alcatel.co.uk 9 Clifford Street, London W1X 1RB. Telephone: 0171 534 3100 Fax: 0171 287 2452 www.alcatel.com

ALCATEL

The Hi-Speed Company

Delia Smith buys a slice of Norwich City

By PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

WHILE the rest of the country turns to her Christmas recipes, Delia Smith has given herself a non-culinary treat: a plum shareholding in Norwich City Football Club.

She and her husband, Michael Wynn Jones, a publisher, have bought 42 per cent of the shares in the club, renowned to have cost about £700,000. No more queuing for season tickets for them.

The couple, who live near Stowmarket in Suffolk, became directors of Norwich City in November 1996 after they left the club £1 million, the interest on which was to be used for special club projects.

Since then, Ms Smith, whose cookery books and various offshoots have made her one of the wealthiest women in the country, has introduced the players to high-carbohydrate and low-fat breakfasts before training and more of the same afterwards.

She has also provided them with recipes for baked tomato risotto, fish 'n' bread, and carrot cake to make and eat at home. Her own diet surrounding matches is not so virtuous: fish and chips on Saturdays, McDonald's midweek.

"It is extremely exciting and gives us an awful lot of pleasure," said Ms Smith yesterday of her buy. "We are supporters and season ticket-holders and in the last year we have had a chance to see what happens behind the scenes. If you showed me a profit and

balance sheet, I wouldn't now which way up to hold it — but I have other gifts."

It was Mr Wynn Jones, the editor of *Sainsbury's Magazine* and a supporter of the Canaries from the age of 11, who introduced Mrs Smith to Norwich City. Her football fever began with England's 1966 World Cup win, but support for Norwich gave her a more day-to-day focus. The couple have been regular visitors to Norwich games, both home and away for nearly 26 years.

They bought their shares from Geoffrey Watling, 84, but have no interest in ousting the present chairman, Barry Lockwood. "We are not going to go in with all guns blazing, and nothing like that is on the agenda," Mr Wynn Jones said. Their plan is to boost the club's annual revenues by £1 million through additional catering, sponsorship and commercial activities.

On the footballing side, there is delight. Mike Walker, the club manager, said: "It is a very pleasant surprise and stabilises the club. They have been successful in business and if they want to bring that success to the football club, it's got to be brilliant."

For Ms Smith, the purchase is more than a financial transaction. "I think everyone wants to give the talents they have," she says. "It is very nice when you reach middle age and you can go in another direction."



Delia Smith: a regular visitor to Norwich games

Moderniser
will bring
sure touch

Scargill 'guilty of misconduct' over £800,000 cash transfer

By MARK HENDERSON

ARTHUR SCARGILL is set to be disqualified as a trustee of two miners' welfare organisations after the Charity Commission yesterday found him guilty of misconduct over a £800,000 cash transfer.

The president of the National Union of Mineworkers will be removed as a trustee of the Yorkshire Miners' Welfare Trust Fund and the Yorkshire Miners' Welfare Convalescent Homes if he fails to respond adequately to the findings of a year-long investigation into a cash transfer between the two charities, which ensured him and the NUM vice-president, Frank Cave.

Mr Scargill and Mr Cave were found to have moved the money from the trust fund to the convalescent homes during inordinate meetings and in breach of correct procedures for approving such grants. They are alleged to have pressed the transfer to prevent the money being used for miners' welfare projects run in conjunction with employers.

They have until the end of January to make representations to the commission to contest the findings, and have begun a High Court action against their proposed disqualification which will be heard in April.

The commission launched the inquiry in January after complaints from other trustees, thought to be British Coal appointments to the board, that Mr Scargill and Mr Cave



Scargill: he has begun action in High Court

had broken rules to force through the transfer. The NUM officials were suspended as trustees in June.

The commissioners said yesterday that, after the investigation, they were "satisfied that there has been misconduct and mismanagement in the administration of the charities and that it was necessary or desirable to remove Mr Scargill and Mr Cave from their trusteeship".

The transfer prevented money from the miners' trust fund being used for welfare projects that are "partnership-funded" with employers under rules introduced after the privatisation of the coal industry in 1995. The NUM opposes partnership funding, which it says demands unfair contributions from miners and should be wholly funded by employ-

ers and the state. In May 1995, the trustees of the charities took a unanimous decision not to take part in the scheme in the "best interests" of Yorkshire miners, according to Mr Scargill.

The trust fund was established in 1984 to "promote the health, social well-being and condition of living" of current and former miners. The convalescent homes charity, which runs two homes near Scarborough, was set up in 1966. Mr Scargill and Mr Cave were also criticised by the commission over one of the Scarborough homes, which had "improperly" refused places to former miners who had not continued to pay union dues after they were made redundant.

The commission did not suggest that Mr Scargill or Mr Cave had sought to benefit personally from the transfer, but found that they had taken decisions at meetings attended by too few trustees and had failed to follow procedures for approving such grants between charities.

The NUM said in a statement yesterday: "The national executive pledges full support for Arthur Scargill and condemns the outrageous decision to first suspend and now remove the NUM president as trustee."

Mr Scargill said yesterday: "The union's lawyers have issued court proceedings against the Charity Commissioners and demanded that both Frank Cave and I be reinstated as trustees."



John Gower, the plastic surgeon who treated two-year-old Harry Sherwood, with his young patient yesterday

Shark skin cure for the boy who fell on a fire

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A BOY of two, who was badly burnt after falling on to a gas fire, has a shark to thank for his restored skin.

His surgeon, John Gower, of Birmingham's Selly Oak Hospital, used an American material called Integra to repair the 31 per cent burns on Harry Sherwood's body. It is made from a mixture of calf tendon, a rich source of the protein collagen, and shark cartilage, which encourages the wounded tissue to grow again.

Mr Gower has used the material before, as have other British surgeons, but he is especially pleased with the results of Harry's operation. He used £2,500 worth of the artificial skin, made in New Jersey, to repair burns on Harry's back, chest, arms and bottom.

Harry's mother, Donna, of Walsall, said: "I've been amazed how normal Harry's skin looks. It's just a little bit lumpy, but Mr Gower expects that to settle down fairly quickly. He will still need to go back to hospital for dressings for quite a while yet, but at least he enjoys the train journeys."

Integra mimics skin with its two layers—an upper layer of silicone, which copies the epidermis, and a lower one, or dermis, made up of bovine collagen and shark cartilage. When laid on top of burnt tissue, the collagen is digested and a new layer of dermis produced.

After a couple of weeks the silicone layer is removed and a layer of the patient's own epidermis seeded on to the surface. This grows into a new skin with little scarring, if all goes well.

Defence ministers clear the Eurofighter for £40bn take-off



The Eurofighter on the ground: it is designed to beat rivals in "close encounters of the worst kind"

By MICHAEL EVANS

THE Eurofighter aircraft, designed to beat its rivals in "close encounters of the worst kind", cleared the final political hurdle yesterday when four defence ministers signed an agreement for the full production phase of the £40 billion programme.

After years of political wrangling, mainly between Germany and its three other partners, Britain, Italy and Spain, over price rises and the increasing sophistication of the multirole combat jet, the signing in Bonn will safeguard 80,000 jobs in Britain and provide the RAF with an aircraft to replace the Jaguar and Tornado air defence fighter.

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, who signed a memorandum of understanding with his three European counterparts for the plane's production and in-service support phases of the programme, said: "This is a historic event which commits us to the future of the Eurofighter programme. It is also a vital step towards providing the air forces of our four nations with the aircraft they need to respond to the uncertain challenges ahead."

Responding to critics of Eurofighter, which will cost British taxpayers about £16 billion—the Ministry of Defence's most expensive procurement contract—Mr Robertson said: "Our studies have shown conclusively that Eurofighter is the best available combat aircraft for the UK in the post-Cold War world."

He added: "The four-nation programme will ensure that the European aerospace industry remains at the forefront of technology; it could also prove a catalyst for the industrial restructuring that is essential, if Europe is to remain competitive in the world defence market."

Next June, the Eurofighter consortium, consisting of British Aerospace, Dasa of Germany, Casa of Spain and Alenia of Italy, will sign a production contract with the four governments to build 232 of the aircraft for the RAF, 180 for the Luftwaffe, 121 for the Italian air force and 87 for the Spanish.

Deliveries to the RAF are scheduled to begin in June 2002 and run on until 2014. British industry is primarily involved in construction of the front end of the jet, the cockpit, the

front canard wings, part of the main wings, the new EJ200 engines and much of the avionics, including the advanced new radar.

About 200 British companies, including GEC-Marconi, Dowty, Lucas, Martin Baker and Smiths Industries, are involved in the development of a range of equipment. The aircraft will be assembled at British Aerospace sites in Lancashire from components manufactured by companies in the four partner nations. Rolls-Royce will manufacture the engines, primarily at plants in Bristol and Derby.

British Aerospace claims that only the American F22 Raptor, currently in development and estimated to cost twice as much as Eurofighter, will be able to out-maneuvre the Euro-

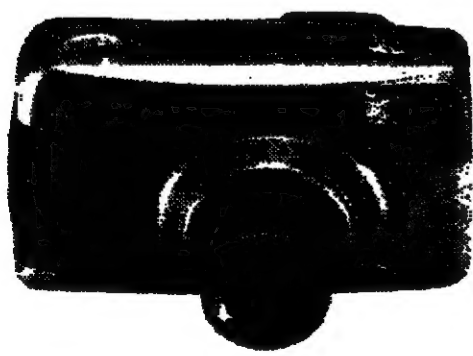
fighter in the next generation of aircraft.

The MoD said the F22 would not be a good purchase because it would cost as extra £8 billion for just an eight per cent improvement in performance.

A spokesman for BAe said: "Critics have claimed that Eurofighter has not been designed with stealth technology, because it doesn't look like the American F117 Stealth fighter."

"But if it had been designed to look like the stealth fighter it wouldn't be able to operate as an air superiority aircraft. Eurofighter was designed to win dogfights and to be able to fly very tight turns and to escape at supersonic speeds without afterburners, and that's as stealthy as it needs to be."

SLIMMER OF THE YEAR.



Winner of the 'European Compact Camera of the Year 1997' (and 1996), the light, elegant and exceptionally high quality SAMSUNG Slim Zoom 145S has everything you need to take great pictures with the utmost ease. It makes it simple for beginners to experiment, with intelligent zooming modes like 'fuzzy' and 'head and shoulders', plus shooting modes like 'continuous', 'interval' and 'spot'—you can even take three shots at three different lengths!

Other features include a 38-145mm power zoom lens, a built-in flash with 'auto', 'fill-in', 'off' and 'pre-flash' for red eye reduction, multi-autofocus, backlight control and exposure compensation, self-timer, 'landscape' and 'switchable panorama' modes. £249.

The price also includes 'Taking Better Pictures', a special VHS video with full operating instructions.

Photographic Department, Lower Ground Floor

Harrods
KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Harrods Limited, Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7XL. Telephone 0171-730 1234

Union seeks an answer to lack of teachers

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE biggest teaching union is joining forces with Government advisers to try to settle the arguments over what is putting graduates off joining the profession.

The unions have argued that low pay, stress and constant criticism from politicians and the media are responsible for poor recruitment and retention. Ministers insist that they balance pressure with support for teachers and that pay compares well with other countries.

Now the National Union of Teachers is mounting joint research with the Teacher Training Agency to find the real influences on students. More than 3,000 final-year students have been asked their view of teaching as a career.

A select committee of MPs has expressed concern about the feasibility of meeting the Government's class size targets and maintaining quality in a range of shortage subjects unless more candidates can be attracted into the profession. The TTA has already launched a £10 million campaign to sell the profession to graduates with cinema advertising featuring Tony Blair and celebrities from the arts and sport.

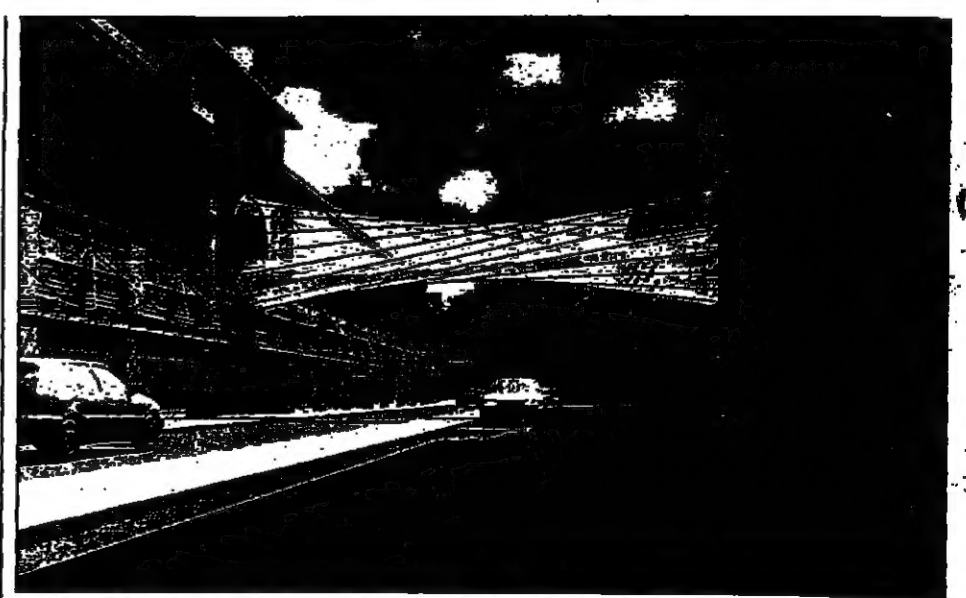
Recruitment to teacher training has declined sharply since the economy began to recover and more opportunities opened up for graduates. Postgraduate courses had attracted only 13,500 applications by the beginning of December, compared with

15,172 a year earlier. The four-year first-degree Bachelor of Education is also showing an 8 per cent drop in applications. Pupil numbers will continue to rise until at least 2002. Although the targets for recruitment to training courses were raised this month, the NUT doubts that enough graduates will join unless conditions in schools improve.

Doug McAvoy, the union's general secretary, said: "The Government insists that its aim is to see ever-improving performance in schools. But this cannot be achieved without a significant increase in the numbers of teachers recruited from among the brightest and best in our schools and higher education establishments."

"This survey will help the TTA and the NUT to counter obstacles to recruitment identified by the young people we most need to attract."

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, announced a £39 million boost in funding for education authorities to meet ambitious literacy targets yesterday. The Government has committed itself to ensuring that four out of five 11-year-olds reach their expected reading age by 2002. The first allocations from the Government's £500 million standards fund were made to coincide with the second reading of the School Standards and Framework Bill. Mr Blunkett said: "A firm grasp of the basics is vital for every child."



How Manchester city centre's new bridge will look. The IRA blew up the old one

Bombed city will have bridge to the future

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A GLASS BRIDGE of futuristic design is to span a street in Manchester city centre on the spot where the IRA bomb exploded last year, as a symbol of the city's recovery after the shopping and office centre was ripped apart.

The tubular bridge, which replaces the damaged original, will span Corporation Street, linking the world's largest Marks and Spencer store with the Arndale Centre, it was announced yesterday.

Manchester Millennium Ltd, which is overseeing the £1 billion rebuilding programme for the city centre, chose the design, an hour-glass-shaped spiral of steel and glass, from four final submissions. Its creators claim it as a world first. Shoppers will be able to

walk along a timber path through the largely transparent tube. The design was put together by architects Hodder Associates and the structural engineers Ove Arup.

Patrick Kearney, chairman of Manchester City Council's city centre committee, said: "The bridge will provide a dramatic experience for people either using or passing under it and is a safe and exciting link between two of the most popular shopping complexes in town." Stephen Hodder, of Stephen Hodder Associates, said: "The image of the ruined bridge was one of the most vivid following the bombing. I feel that the reinstatement of the bridge may be seen as a symbol of the city centre's recovery."

Publication of the design came on the same day as the Prudential confirmed that terms had been agreed with P&O for the acquisition of the Arndale Centre for more than £300 million.

A design team has been appointed to create Exchange Square, a new public space, as part of the rebuilding programme. Martha Schwartz Inc, based in Massachusetts, has been awarded the commission to create a "superior and vital new public square". Martha Schwartz, a landscape gardener, is the inspiration behind large-scale urban projects in New York City and Minneapolis.

The detailed designs for Manchester are to be submitted to the city council's city centre committee in March 1998.

Heart and lung boy, 10, dies in mother's arms

By PAUL WILKINSON

BRITAIN'S youngest heart and lung transplant patient has died more than seven years after his pioneering operation.

Ten-year-old Stephen Hollis, an only child, died peacefully in the arms of his mother, Sonia, on Sunday night. His donated heart and lungs were still working well at the end, but his kidneys had failed, probably from the side-effects of the drugs he took to combat rejection of the transplant.

Yesterday his father, Mick Hollis, said: "We have had seven years with Stephen we might not have expected without the transplant. We have some beautiful memories that no one can take away."

"It couldn't have happened at a worse time of year. Stephen always loved Christmas and this one is going to be a very special one. But he exceeded all expectations. I am glad he has passed away so peacefully. We have so many beautiful memories that we wouldn't have had without the transplant, and we will treasure them."

"He died peacefully in bed at home. We have known for a while that we have been on borrowed time. There has been a slow deterioration and we have watched him go through some bad times over the past 12 months."

"We knew it was coming, but we always just hoped that it wouldn't happen yet. We rushed him into hospital last



Mick Hollis said his son had died peacefully

Monday but, by Wednesday night, his condition had declined so much that they told us there was nothing more they could do and we should take him home.

"Over the years he has had to be on a strict diet. But when we left the hospital, the doctors told us to forget it and let him have what he wanted. On the way home we called at a chip shop and he had his first fish and chips for two years. In the final few days he has been eating bars of chocolate and crisps which he hadn't been able to have."

Stephen, from Horbury, near Wakefield, West Yorkshire, was born with lungs a quarter of the normal size and his parents were told that his only hope of survival was a heart and lung transplant. They waited ten months for a

suitable donor before the operation could take place at Killingbeck Hospital in Leeds, on April 28, 1990. At the time Stephen was just over three years old.

Only two days later he was tucking into chips and yoghurt and amazing doctors by the speed of his recovery. He went home a month after the operation.

At first doctors put him on eight different drugs which his parents had to administer nine times a day. As time passed, the number of drugs was reduced, but he still faced a daily mixture. Mr Hollis, 42, a van driver said: "The side-effects finally got to him."

He said that, despite his condition, Stephen had been able to start school with other children of his age and joined in playground games. Until the final few months, he had lived life to the full.

But the nature of his pioneering operation meant there was always a question mark about his long-term future and his parents continued to make the most of the fun he had.

Yesterday Duncan Walker, the surgeon who carried out the transplant, said: "I am very sorry to hear of Stephen's death. It is very sad news. The drugs that transplant patients have to take can be very toxic."

"I feel for his parents who have to be very dedicated to make sure the children take all the medication they have to... Stephen was a real live-wire. My thoughts are with his mother and father."



Stephen Hollis was born with lungs a quarter of the normal size. He had a transplant operation seven years ago

Father to sue hospitals over kidney transplant failure

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A FATHER who donated a kidney to save his son plans to sue the hospital trust that carried out the transplant.

The operation did not succeed, after what Albert Young will claim was negligence by the Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust. Mr Young, who is in his 60s, says that the trust's hospitals failed to identify

that his kidney had more than one artery leading to it, which makes the operation more difficult.

He volunteered to give a kidney to his son, Paul, in March 1995. Operations involving live donors have become much more common in recent years, as there are never sufficient kidneys to meet the demand for transplants. Both underwent tests and treatment at St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth, and

Queen Alexandra Hospital, in nearby Cosham, until the transplant operation in November that year.

His solicitor, Andrew Thompson, has now served a High Court writ to obtain medical records connected with the operation.

He is trying to prove that the kidney was removed without doctors performing adequate tests to determine Mr Young's suitability

as a kidney donor for his son.

Mr Thompson, of the London-based firm Bolt Burdon, which specialises in cases of alleged medical negligence, said that he was not aware of another case in which an organ donor had taken legal action against a hospital trust. He believed that any damages award would be likely to exceed £100,000.

"What we are saying is that the

extraction should never have taken place," Mr Thompson said.

Mr Young, who refused to comment, now has only one kidney, but is back at work. He is planning to sue for the pain, loss, injury and damage he says he suffered as a result of the operation. His son, who is still alive, was also unavailable for comment.

A spokeswoman for Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust said she was

aware of the impending legal action. "Beyond that we cannot comment," she said.

At Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital Trust in London, where many kidney transplant techniques have been pioneered, a spokeswoman said multi-vessel operations were rarely carried out on live donors. "There is a different approach to the operation and it is more difficult," she added.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stalker dead after assault in street

A stalker freed from custody on Friday, on condition that he stay out of Inverness, died after apparently being attacked in the town hours later. Michael Mackintosh, 60, is believed to have suffered serious head injuries and died in hospital in Aberdeen on Sunday. He had admitted in court that he had persistently followed and harassed a named woman, and was ordered not to approach or communicate with her.

Crash injuries

A 26-year-old student and her boyfriend were seriously injured after a sports car stolen from the wife of the comedian Harry Enfield last month collided with their car near Buckingham Palace. A 27-year-old man has been charged.

Chase charge

A man appeared before magistrates in Bolton charged with manslaughter and criminal damage after a taxi driver was killed by a car when he was chased on a road. Dean Kirkman, 20, from Bolton, was granted bail.

Ex-agent cleared

Bernard Carr, 44, a Hartlepool councillor and former election agent of Peter Mandelson, was cleared of gross indecency after the Crown Prosecution Service asked local magistrates to discontinue the case.

Blind tasting

Britain's first audible restaurant menu service has been launched. Via Vita and Brown's have joined the scheme, in which blind customers are handed portable cassette players and a tape of the day's menu.

Chain reaction

Chain-gang style uniforms for Scottish offenders on community service — introduced by Michael Forsyth, the former Scottish Secretary — are to be abolished. Local authorities had complained about the practice being demeaning.

Great offers at Sainsbury's. Well, it is Christmas.

<p>Loose Sprouts 39p 27p per lb</p>	<p>Charlotte Potatoes 1kg £1.59 99p</p>
<p>King Edward Potatoes 2.5kg £1.99 99p</p>	<p>Loose Parsnips 39p 35p per lb</p>

Christmas at Sainsbury's

OFFERS END 27 DECEMBER 1997. ALSO AVAILABLE AT SAINSBURY'S SAVACENTRES. PRODUCTS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. WE'D BE INTERESTED IN YOUR COMMENTS: WWW.SAINSBURY'S.CO.UK

SIEMENS

The new
Siemens S10.
The best
business
phone in
the world.



The Siemens S10 has just been voted the Best Business Mobile in the World by Connect, the European communications magazine. It comes with 10 hours to home or 100 hours standby, the world's first colour display and a 20 second video memo function. So, if you want a better Christmas present this year, ask for the best business phone in the world. Better Talkology from Siemens.

Furore as McAleese takes rival Host

A conciliatory gesture by the Irish President has angered the Roman Catholic Church, reports Martin Fletcher

MARY McALEESE has become embroiled in the first major controversy of what promises to be a fiery seven-year term as President of Ireland after taking Communion in a Protestant church.

Through this seemingly laudable attempt to "build bridges" to Northern Ireland, the former Belfast law professor has created an unseasonal dispute between Roman Catholic and Protestant leaders, exposed a widening gulf between the Catholic hierarchy and its increasingly liberal flock, and raised the prospect of an unprecedented showdown between Church and State.

On Sunday Jean Kennedy Smith, the American Ambassador and a member of her country's most prominent Catholic family, joined the controversy by taking Communion in the same place — Dublin's Christ Church Cathedral — where Dr McAleese undertook that simple but highly symbolic act on December 7. Religion was "about bringing people together," Mrs Kennedy Smith said.

It is believed that no Irish President of the Catholic faith has taken Communion in a Protestant church before. As a practising Catholic and former adviser to Catholic bishops, Dr McAleese must have fully understood the implications of her action. She was evidently determined to keep her electoral promise and reach out across Ireland's religious divide. But the backlash has been swift.

Within days the Irish Bishops' Conference declared that, under canon law, it was "not permissible for Roman Catholics to receive Communion in Protestant churches or at Protestant services", and pointedly expressed the hope that "the issue will not arise again".

Desmond Connell, the



President McAleese taking Communion at the Anglican Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin. Her gesture was supported by Jean Kennedy Smith, the US Ambassador, below

Catholic Archbishop of Dublin and a theological purist, then inflamed matters further by suggesting during a radio interview that for a Catholic to take Communion in a Protestant church was a "sham".

Robin Eames, Primate of the Church of Ireland, hit back by saying he deeply regretted that something as sacred as the Eucharist should become the source of division, especially "at a time when Christians of different traditions are earnestly seeking greater understanding and the healing of long-standing wounds".

The Church of Ireland welcomed baptised Christians of any tradition who wanted to participate in the Eucharist, he said. "In a world of increasing secularism and a world in which Christianity itself is under attack, we ought surely to emphasise our points of

agreement rather than over-emphasising our differences." Since then there has been a virtual free-for-all, with clergy, theologians, commentators and nuns weighing in with varying degrees of anger and regret, and Irish newspapers dedicating whole pages to the issue. Dr McAleese alone has remained silent. But then the tide of public opinion seems to be flowing strongly her way.

In a church in Co Cork on Sunday, several parishioners walked out when the priest said that Dr McAleese may have committed a mortal sin. One poll showed nearly 80 per cent supported her. Newspaper letters pages have been equally supportive, as have most editorials.

The *Irish Times* lamented that the Catholic Church had been "so ungenerous and forthright" in its condemna-

tion, and suggested that it "seems set to lose ground and goodwill even with the many people who wish it well". Dr McAleese had "given tangible expression to her promise of being a builder of bridges. It is regrettable that Dr Connell and others cannot so readily be counted in her company."

But in 1996, Pope Leo XIII issued an encyclical, *Apostolicae Curae*, which still stands, and in which he condemned Anglican orders as "absolutely null and utterly void".

This was on the grounds that the "intention" of the Anglican Church in its ordination rite is defective because there are no words or acts which confer explicitly on the priest the power to offer sacrifice.

The Second Vatican Council, which met from 1962 to 1965, softened the line slightly.

In its document on ecumenism, the council recognised that the



Heresy that has roots in centuries of persecution

ROMAN Catholics are instructed from the cradle that to take Communion in a Protestant church is forbidden because Protestant sacraments are considered to be invalid.

The question is still highly emotive for most traditional Catholics, many of whom can recall an era when even to enter a Protestant church was not far short of heresy.

"Mary McAleese has taken Holy Communion in a church whose sacraments the Catholic Church does not recognise as valid or true sacraments in the Catholic sense," said Monsignor William Steele, ecumenical officer for the Catholic diocese of Leeds. "This is the only example I know of where a Catholic Head of State has done this."

The row stems from the Reformation, the row over orders lingers on.

To Anglicans, the bread and wine are symbols; to Catholics they are the body and blood of Christ. Ruth Gledhill reports on a fundamental difference

mation and the question of priestly orders in the Anglican Church. Catholicism after the Reformation was outlawed and a series of draconian penal laws introduced. Everyone was forced to attend their new Anglican parish church each week, and anyone who refused to do so was fined.

Worse still for Catholics, under a series of laws passed from 1571 onwards, any Catholic priest discovered in England was considered to be guilty of treason and subject to the death penalty. The

first to die was Father Cathbert Mayne in 1577.

Gradually, over the centuries, the laws became less strictly enforced, and were finally lifted under Catholic emancipation in the 19th century.

But memories of the sufferings of that time remain, embodied in the surviving priests' holes in the homes of wealthy recusants who sheltered them from persecution.

While ecumenism has opened up unprecedented dialogue between Anglicans and Catholics this

century, the row over orders lingers on. In the immediate aftermath of the Reformation, it centred on whether the Church of England had maintained the apostolic succession in the consecration of its bishops.

There were repeated claims that the vital continuity in the "laying on of hands" from the time of the apostles had been broken with the appointment of Archbishop Matthew Parker by Queen Elizabeth I in 1559.

The Church of that era was split by rumours that, instead of being validly consecrated in the chapel of Lambeth Palace, Archbishop Parker had knelt on the floor of a pub, the Nag's Head in Cheapside, and been told by a bishop who had

been deprived of his living to "receive the power of preaching the Word of God sincerely". This rumour was subsequently repudiated.

But in 1996, Pope Leo XIII issued an encyclical, *Apostolicae Curae*, which still stands, and in which he condemned Anglican orders as "absolutely null and utterly void".

This was on the grounds that the "intention" of the Anglican Church in its ordination rite is defective because there are no words or acts which confer explicitly on the priest the power to offer sacrifice.

The Second Vatican Council, which met from 1962 to 1965, softened the line slightly.

In its document on ecumenism, the council recognised that the

Holy Spirit was at work in the sacraments of other Churches.

However, when the Church of England decided in 1992 to ordain women, it became clear from the Catholic response that *Apostolicae Curae* was still the official line.

But even if the difficulty over priestly orders were to be resolved, problems still remain over the nature of the sacrament itself.

Many Anglicans believe the bread and wine to be mere symbols of the body and blood of Christ, whereas Catholics believe they have been transformed by the sacrament into the actual body and blood of Christ.

"It is like the difference between whisky and lemonade," said one cradle Catholic. "There is no comparison."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ex-envoy from Iraq given bail of £10,000

A former Iraqi ambassador seeking refuge in Britain was released from immigration detention yesterday, seven weeks after arriving at Heathrow airport on a false passport. Majid al-Samarrai insists that he faces death if he should return to Iraq.

Mr al-Samarrai, 49, a former Iraqi government propaganda chief and Ambassador to Libya, Bulgaria and most recently Venezuela, was released on £10,000 bail after a hearing at the Immigration Appeals Authority in Feltham, West London.

The former head of National Radio and Television in Baghdad was interrogated by MI5 officers during his detention. His lawyer said that he would be asking the Home Office to issue urgent travel documents to allow Mr al-Samarrai's family to join him in Britain.

£13,000 train set

One of the oldest model trains to be sold at auction fetched £13,800 in London. The German tinplate toy, consisting of a locomotive, tender, two carriages and three goods wagons, was made by Buchner of Nuremberg. It had had only three owners since 1899.

Ship fire rages

Firefighters were tackling a blaze on the 29,000-ton British-registered *Kukawa*, which was towed into Falmouth by a tug. A stowaway who emerged after the fire broke out in the engine room in mid-Channel on Saturday was being questioned by immigration officers.

Drug-rape arrest

A man of 19 was remanded in custody by Manchester magistrates, charged with drugging and raping a schoolgirl. Kevin Michael Hunt, of from Newall Green, Wythenshawe, Manchester, is accused of attacking the 12-year-old girl on Friday.

Ferry rescue

Three hundred passengers were involved in a rescue operation when their ferry, *The Pride of Le Havre*, went to the aid of a blazing cargo ship in the Channel. All crew members were winched to safety.

Pilot killed

A pilot, killed when his two-seater Cessna crashed into a hillside near Gatehouse of Fleet in Dumfries and Galloway on Sunday, has been named as Phillip Williams, 44, of Kilmarnock. He was flying from Carlisle to Prestwick, and had reported a fault.

Turkey's reprieve

A 20lb turkey on a poultry farm at Hemyock, Devon, has been saved from the Christmas table after becoming surrogate mother to 11 ducklings. It sat on the nest of abandoned eggs for 28 days and now stands guard over the hatched ducklings.

The best Christmas present for 500 years

For 500 years the Nukak, one of Amazonia's last nomadic tribes, have seen their land stolen from them, and their people die. Recently half their population has been wiped out by diseases brought in by outsiders. The man on the right of this photo was amongst them. But now, thanks to Survival's members, their land and their future are secure.

After a six-year Survival campaign, the Colombian government this week finally moved to protect all the Nukak's land. For the first Christmas in 500 years the Nukak have a reason to celebrate. Unfortunately, many other tribal peoples around the world are not so lucky. If you would like to help the world's most effective campaigning organisation for tribal peoples, please ask for details.

As the Nukak will confirm, it's worth it.



For more information please contact: Survival, 11-15 Bedford Square, London WC1N 3AU. Tel: 01753 451141. Fax: 01753 451177. Email: info@survival.org. Website: www.survival.org. Registered Charity 270 443.

Survival is a worldwide organisation supporting tribal peoples. It stands for their right to decide their own future and helps them protect their lives, lands and human rights.



Boxer sentenced for threat to PCs

BY A CORRESPONDENT

HERBIE HIDE, the world heavyweight boxing champion, was ordered yesterday to do 60 hours' community service after admitting using threatening behaviour to two police officers.

The 26-year-old Briton, who holds the World Boxing Organisation version of the heavyweight crown, threw a punch at PC Maria-Jane Horner, which she ducked to avoid, magistrates in Norwich were told. He also pushed PC Robin Boothby, 33, in the face.

Hide, who lives in Norwich, admitted threatening behaviour at a hearing earlier this month. A charge of assaulting police officers, which he denied, had been dismissed after the prosecution offered no evidence.

The magistrates ordered him to complete his community service within 12 months. They said he should pay compensation of £50 each to PC Horner and PC Boothby, plus £50 costs.

Hide was stopped while driving his Bentley erratically in Norwich late one night in July and, questioned by police, he had become abusive, swearing, using a traffic form and threatening to sue. He was charged with threatening to harm two police officers, which he denied. He was also charged with threatening to harm two police officers, which he denied. He was also charged with threatening to harm two police officers, which he denied.

Boothby was pushed in the face while attempting to radio for assistance after Hide had snatched a traffic docket from him.

PC Horner approached the boxer and told him he was in danger of being arrested. "He threw a punch at her with his hand in a clenched fist," said Mr Methold. "It missed. She ducked to avoid it."

The court was told that Hide was in breach of a conditional discharge order imposed two years ago after he was convicted of causing criminal damage in a "road rage" incident. Magistrates heard that he had driven into the back of a woman's car after taking a "dim view" of the way she was driving. He also owed nearly £600 in unpaid traffic and parking fines.

After the hearing Hide, who regained his title in Norwich in June and is to defend it in February, said he hoped to complete his community service by doing fitness work with youngsters. The boxer was accompanied to court by his new agent, the former Wimbledon footballer John Fashanu, who said he intended to help to create a new image for Hide and to allow him to concentrate on boxing.

TV stations declare war over hellish neighbours

BY CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE documentary *Neighbours from Hell* was responsible yesterday for causing a fresh outbreak of hostility between ITV and the BBC.

ITV's director of programmes, David Liddiment, accused BBC executives of "petty small-mindedness" and accused them of poaching the idea from under ITV's nose.

The result is that both channels will now screen uncannily similar documentaries about feuding neighbours within an hour of each other on the same night.

Mr Liddiment said it was a blatant example of the BBC letting its preoccupation with ratings override its commitment to its public service remit.

The war began last summer when ITV showed its one-off, hour-long programme *Neighbours from Hell*, which gained an audience of 11 million. ITV immediately began planning a follow-up series but in the autumn the programme maker, Carlton, made the executive producer, Roger James, redundant.

The two freelance directors who had been working with Mr James decided they wanted to carry on working with him and offered the idea to

BBC's controller, Peter Salmon, who snapped it up. The team then rushed to get the programme together and have an unfinished series of two episodes of *Neighbours at War* to begin screening on Monday, January 5, at 9.30 pm, which was for years scheduled as the *Panorama* slot.

ITV has responded by rescheduling its series *Neighbours from Hell* at 8.30 pm on the same night, insisting that it was a commercial, competitive organisation, not a publicly funded one.

Mr Liddiment said he was "very surprised" the BBC had "copied" ITV's idea. "They have a fine tradition of making factual programmes, and I am surprised they need to nick ideas from us. It is petty and rather pathetic."

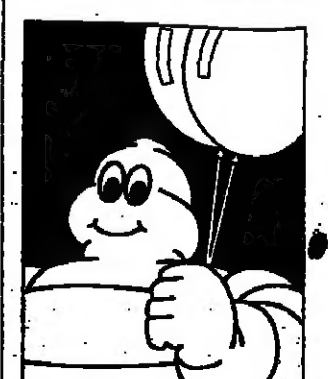
Neighbours at War is scheduled in what was a slot reserved for serious investigative journalism. *Panorama* has now been put back to 10 pm, which shows the increasing marginalisation of its public service responsibilities.

A BBC spokesman said: "ITV is being disingenuous for taking the conscious decision to risk irritating the audience by

scheduling *Neighbours from Hell* on the same night as *Neighbours at War*."

"Our programme will be different with full public service support for people caught up in these situations. There will be a hotline and other information available."

The BBC denied it was being petty and small-minded and claimed that the idea of feuding neighbours had been done by Channel 4 and *World in Action* before. "It is not new," said the spokesman. Mr Liddiment has recently poached a number of high profile staff from the BBC including the head of sport Brian Barwick.



Record-breaking bird comes in from the cold

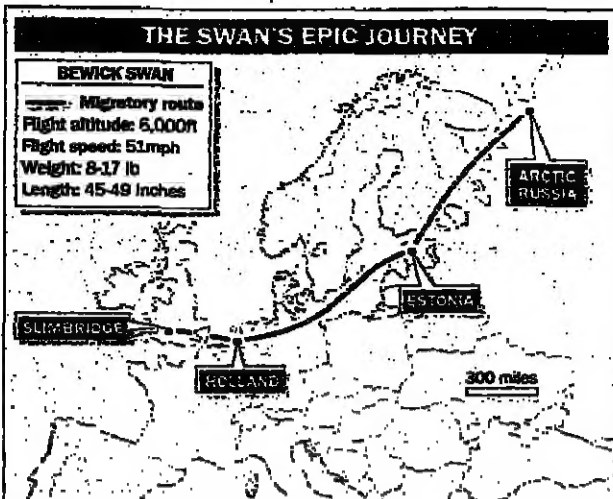
A Russian swan is back for its 27th Christmas, writes Lin Jenkins

A BEWICK'S swan named Casino has entered the record books by returning to Britain for its 27th consecutive winter.

The swan landed at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, after a 2,500-mile flight from northern Russia. Its annual arrival at the reserve beats by a year the previous record set by a Bewick's swan in the early 1980s. The normal lifespan of a Bewick's swan is 15 years.

Its history has been chronicled by researchers at Slimbridge. They know that the bird has had two mates, both now dead, and 32 offspring. One of its cygnets has joined it at the reserve, which is used as a wintering ground by between 400 and 500 Bewick's swans.

They will stay until the end of February before returning to their Russian breeding grounds. John Bowler, a research officer at Slimbridge, has been watching the bird's progress for nine years. He said: "She is looking very good



will miss the Bewick's swans, particularly Casino."

Bewick's swans are winter visitors to Britain and are sometimes confused with whooper swans, which have a similar flight, call and habits. They nest on tundra and breed on islets in estuaries of large rivers or near shallow water on low-lying shores. Sometimes several pairs may nest in a limited area, each pair building a large, smooth nest up to 2½ ft high and built of moss with a few lichens.

In winter and in migration, the swans can be seen on lakes, reservoirs, flooded grasslands and sometimes sheltered sea bays. They feed almost entirely on vegetable matter — seeds, pond grass and aquatic plants — although part of a small fish has been recorded, and remains of water insects.

Bewick's swans are less common than mute or whooper swans, but can often be seen in family groups or large flocks when they winter in Britain.

and there is no apparent reason why she should not keep going. She could pair up and breed again and we have our fingers crossed for next year."

The bird, who was ringed as a chick, no longer has its tag but is easily recognised by the Slimbridge watchers because

of its distinctive beak markings. However, if it returns next year, Dr Bowler will not be there to see it. He is shortly to begin a new job, tracking sea and tropical birds in the Seychelles for the Wildlife Trusts.

He said: "I am looking forward to the change. But I



Casino the Bewick's swan at Slimbridge yesterday. It is the oldest swan recorded

Chief of police puts policy into practice

By PAUL WILKINSON

A CHIEF constable has experienced policing at the sharp end while travelling through his patch. Barry Shaw, 56, who pioneered the "zero tolerance" policy in his Cleveland force, was being driven to a carol concert when they saw a woman being attacked by two men. He told PC Ian McDonald to pull over.

Before Mr Shaw could intervene, the woman was thrown through a shop window. Assisted by his driver, Mr Shaw held the men until other officers arrived. The woman, 35, who was with two children in Middlesbrough when she was attacked last Thursday evening, did not require medical attention.

Cleveland police said: "The chief knows that officers on the streets could have dealt with this, but he was on the scene. It does prove that our positive policing strategy goes right to the top."

A man has been charged with assault, and four others are expected to face charges of causing an affray.

Hospital set second patient free to kill

By MARK HENDERSON

A TEENAGE schizophrenic killed his neighbour after being released from a hospital which was recently criticised for discharging another patient who went on to kill.

Tolga Kurter, now 20, of Islington, North London, pleaded guilty at the Old Bailey yesterday to the manslaughter of Nicky Boyd, 42, on the ground of diminished responsibility. The Recorder of London, Judge Lawrence Verney, QC, ordered that he be detained indefinitely at Rampton Special Hospital.

Kurter was 19 when he stabbed Mr Boyd to death in April, a few months after undergoing treatment at the Waterlow Unit of the Whittington Hospital in Archway, North London. In March, the same psychiatric unit was the subject of a critical inquiry into the release of Martin Mursell, who killed his stepfather and tried to kill his mother two weeks after leaving its care in 1994.

Norman Harvey, a consultant psychiatrist who took the decisions to release both Kurter and Mursell, resigned from his position at the hospital in May after he was suspended pending an inquiry into Mr Boyd's death. Dr Harvey was strongly criticised in the report into the killing by Mursell, which found he had

"not responded adequately" to the patient's continuing need for out-patient care.

Henry Kennedy, a psychiatrist, told the court that Kurter, who had convictions for assault, dishonesty and possessing offensive weapons, had not been found to have schizophrenia, despite clear signs that he was suffering from it. "In hindsight, the totality of the information shows he had been exhibiting signs of schizophrenia," he said. "I believe this diagnosis was not reached because the clinicians did not want to make a diagnosis that carries such a devastating prognosis."

Mr Boyd, a taxi driver who lived on the same estate as Kurter, was stabbed to death on April 22. Kurter believed he had killed Micky Spears, his mother's former lover, the court was told.

Camden and Islington Health Authority, which is responsible for the Waterlow Unit, won a High Court action this month to halt a damages suit by Christopher Clunis, a psychiatric patient who killed a man on a London Underground platform after being discharged from the authority's care. It is conducting a review of mental health services, and yesterday announced an inquiry into the Kurter case.



Born Free Appeal

I wish to donate £ _____ to Born Free's Christmas Appeal

Method of payment (please tick box)

Cheque ☐ Postal order ☐ Credit card ☐

Please make cheques payable to Born Free or charge Visa/MasterCard no: _____

Expiry date _____ Today's date _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Send this coupon, with your donation, to:

Born Free Foundation
Coldharbour,
Surrey,
RH5 6HA
Registered charity 296 024

PLEASE DO NOT SEND DONATIONS TO THE TIMES

For details of membership, animal adoptions and projects, visit BFF's Web-site at: <http://web.ukonline.co.uk/bornfree>

Everyman Appeal

I wish to donate £ _____ to the Institute of Cancer Research's Everyman appeal

Method of payment (please tick box)

Cheque ☐ Postal order ☐ Credit card ☐

Please make cheques payable to Everyman appeal or charge Visa/MasterCard/Delta Card no: _____

Expiry date _____ Today's date _____

Signature _____

Name _____

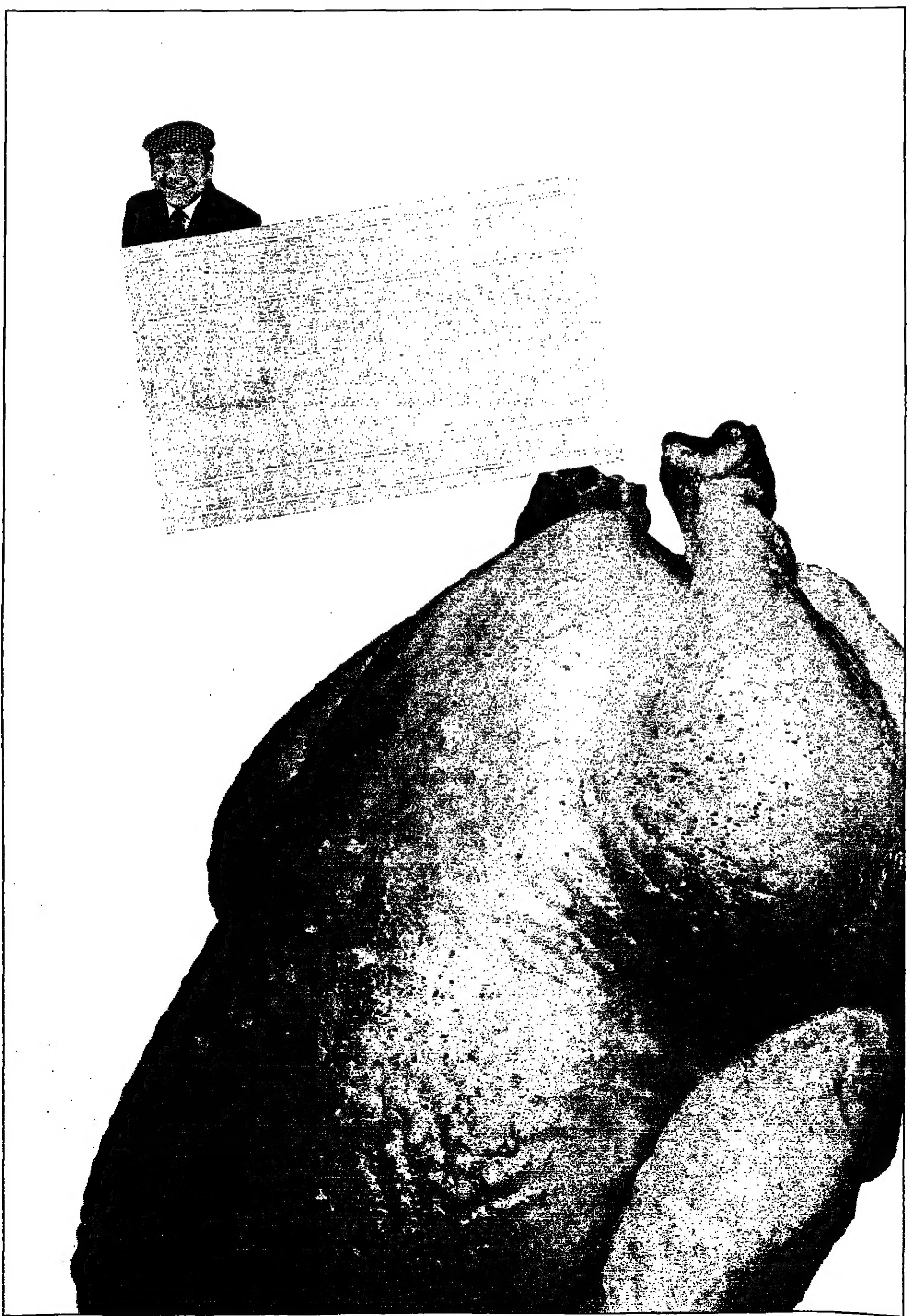
Address _____ Postcode _____

To make an instant credit card donation please phone (0800 73) 5774 or send this coupon with your donation, to:

Everyman appeal
The Institute of Cancer Research
The Osney Gardens
London SW7 3AL

PLEASE DO NOT SEND DONATIONS TO THE TIMES

If more than the £40,000 required for the gene sequencer is raised through this Christmas appeal, it will go directly to other vital prostate cancer research at the Institute of Cancer Research.



America trusts more in God and miracles

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

AMERICANS' faith in God and belief in miracles are surging to their highest levels in ten years, according to an opinion poll published yesterday.

The Pew Research Centre in Washington reported that 71 per cent of respondents said they never doubted the existence of God — up from 60 per cent in 1987. Belief that miracles came from the power of God was held by 61 per cent, an increase of 14 per cent from a decade ago, while 53 per cent said prayer was important to daily life, compared to 41 per cent previously.

The trend appears to be reflected in popular culture. The television programme *Touched by an Angel* is among the top-rated shows, and books on angels, miracles and spirituality are booming.

Martin Marty, a church historian, said science and ideology were not seen as powerful as ten years ago. He drew a contrast between Americans being at ease with the notion of God, and Europe, where religion had suffered from scepticism and wars. He said America's immigrants became more religious after they arrived.

Belief in God does not translate into comparable church attendance. Forty per cent of Americans say they go to church, but the real figure may be only 30 per cent, Mr Marty said.



Leonid Brezhnev on a hunting expedition. The KGB apparently refused his suggestion that it should murder Nikita Khrushchev, right, his predecessor as Soviet leader



KGB refused to kill Khrushchev

Leonid Brezhnev wanted to have his predecessor assassinated, writes

Richard Beeston from Moscow

THE late Soviet leader, Leonid Brezhnev, contemplated ordering the assassination of Nikita Khrushchev, his predecessor, in 1964 but lost his nerve and instead instigated a bloodless coup, according to a former secret service chief.

Shedding new light on one of the most dramatic episodes in Soviet history, Vladimir Semichastny, the head of the KGB from 1961 to 1967, broke his silence at the weekend to disclose that the feared secret police had rejected the suggestion that it "eliminate physically" the Communist leader.

"He [Khrushchev] had become, by that time, an overripe fruit for our society and our country, and without his removal problems would have been compounded," the elderly former spy chief told Russia's NTV television on Sunday. Although Khrushchev is today fondly remembered by a

whole generation of Russians for his liberalism and his famous speech in 1956 denouncing Stalin to the 20th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party, after a decade in power he had become increasingly isolated from the party leadership. Brezhnev was the key instigator of a plot to overthrow him that had the tacit support of the KGB and most key members of the Politburo. However, only a decade after the death of Stalin, none of the leadership wanted to take the first move for fear of being arrested and shot.

Brezhnev was not a particularly brave man," Mr Semichastny said. "He was already willing to become the top leader, but wanted someone else to sort things out with Khrushchev, without getting involved himself. He was still rather afraid of Khrushchev

so he did not have enough courage to go about it." Mr Semichastny said that Brezhnev finally approached the KGB directly and suggested that Khrushchev should be removed by force, either through arrest or assassination. "When this matter was raised, I flatly refused, saying there would be no physical action and no arrest, nothing like that," he said. "You have a Central Committee plenum, you have the Central Committee, I said, so go on and make a decision, but we are not going to do this — at least the KGB will not play any part."

In the event, Brezhnev waited until Khrushchev went on holiday to the Black Sea resort of Pitsunda that October before winning the support of fellow Politburo members to oust him. The Soviet leader was recalled to Moscow, supposedly for an urgent meeting on agriculture, where he was presented with a fait accompli and told to resign.

Even though his KGB-appointed bodyguard had given a warning of the plot, he was taken by surprise and did not try to fight the decision. Instead he retired to a dacha in the country, where he died in

obscurity in 1971 and was the only Soviet leader to be buried outside Red Square.

Khrushchev's brief era of liberalisation was quickly smothered during the long period of stagnation under Brezhnev's rule. However, his reforms did leave a powerful impression on a generation of young Russians. Many later played key roles in pushing through the radical changes introduced by Mikhail Gorbachev in the mid-1980s.

□ **Tbilisi:** The grandson of Josef Stalin offered Georgia a gift on the 118th anniversary of the dictator's birth — a book containing names and pictures of Stalin's foes.

In an interview on Georgian television broadcast yesterday, Yevgeni Dzhugashvili, 59, a former Soviet army colonel, criticised journalists and historians who "denounce and deride" Stalin.

"We have decided to start a 'black book' of those who slander Stalin, accompanied by their pictures, so that people see them," said Mr Dzhugashvili, whose surname was Stalin's real name. A copy of the book will be stored at Stalin's museum in his hometown of Gori.

Kennedy ordered troops out of Vietnam

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

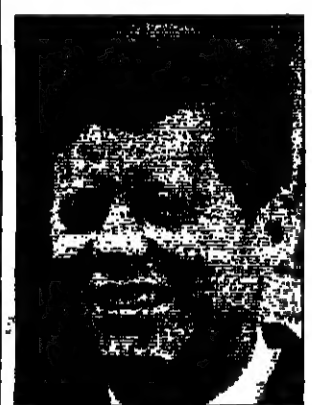
NEW evidence surfaced yesterday that President Kennedy had been planning to pull American forces out of South Vietnam, a move that would have averted America's greatest military defeat.

Documents released from government archives include a memo written by General Maxwell Taylor, his chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in October 1963, seven weeks before the President's assassination in Dallas. The general told the joint chiefs to plan for the withdrawal of all US military personnel by the end of 1965. Indeed, they were to withdraw 1,000 of their troops by the end of 1963.

Kennedy's successor, Lyndon Johnson, feared that a withdrawal would expose him to accusations of being soft on communism when he ran for the presidency in his own right in 1964. He reversed Kennedy's strategy.

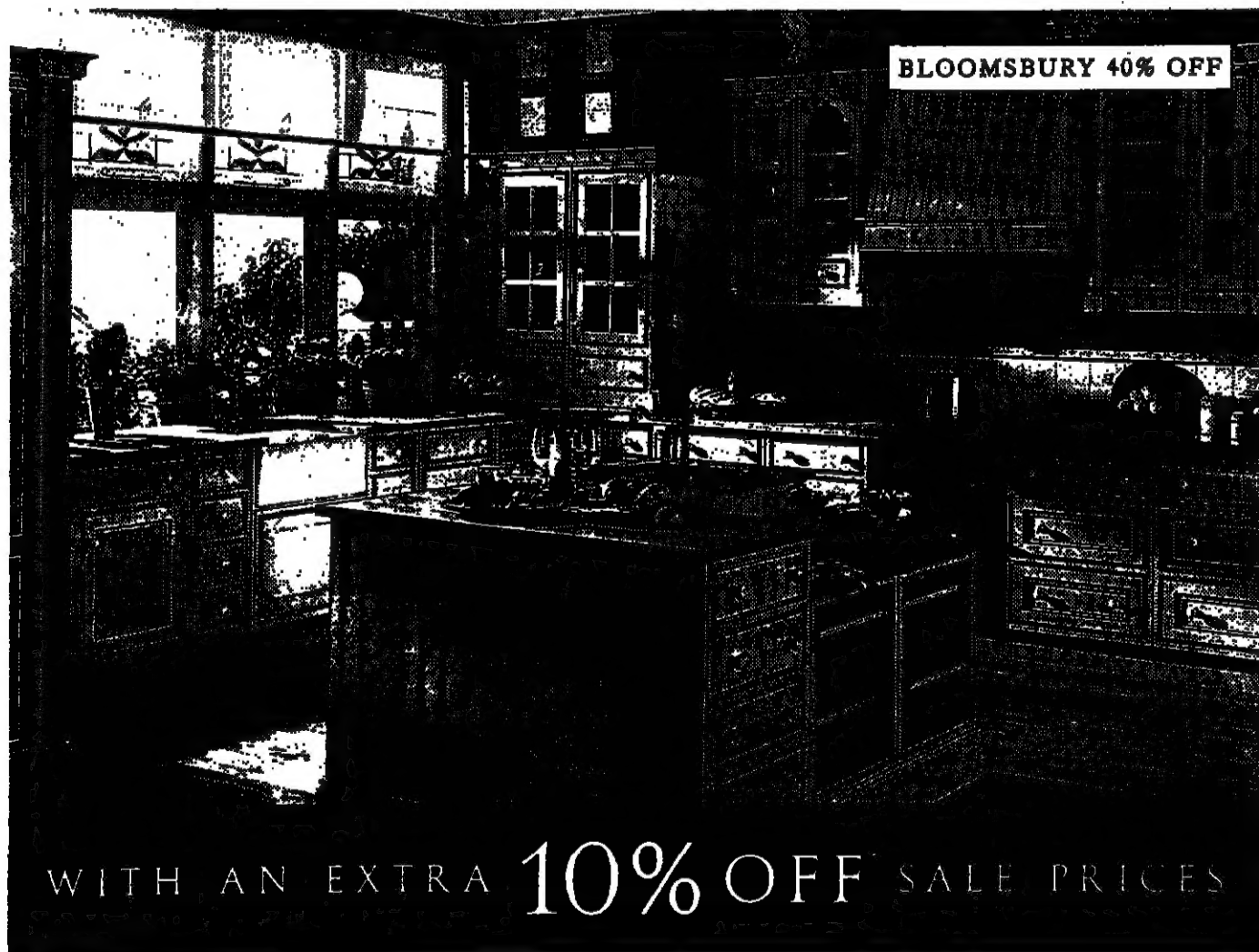
The memo will add to controversy among historians over Kennedy's intentions in Vietnam. When the late Robert Kennedy ran for president as an anti-war candidate in 1968, he assured supporters that his brother had been determined to avoid a land war in Asia.

But Ronald Spector, a Washington history professor, argues that decisive factor in keeping US troops in Vietnam may have been the assassination of Ngo Dinh Diem, President of South Vietnam, between the writing of the Maxwell memo and Kennedy's death.



Kennedy determined to avoid land war in Asia

HALF PRICE SALE STARTS BOXING DAY



BLOOMSBURY 40% OFF

WITH AN EXTRA 10% OFF SALE PRICES

When you buy from Magnet, you can be sure that you get a beautiful kitchen designed to meet your every need. You can also be sure that it's built to take everything life can throw at it. Right now in the Magnet January Sale, all cabinets in over 50 kitchen and bedroom ranges have been reduced, most by 50%, and there are some great offers on **OFF** and Whirlpool appliances too. Visit your local Magnet showroom today to take advantage of these fantastic sale offers.



Magnet

Designed for living BUILT FOR LIFE

for your nearest showroom and opening hours call 0800 192 192

Opening hours: Tuesday 23rd 9.00am-5.00pm, Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th closed, Friday 26th most stores will be open 10.00am-5.00pm, Saturday 27th 9.00am-5.00pm, Sunday 28th most stores will be open 10.00am-4.00pm. Discounts are off prices charged between 24th November and 25th December. *When you spend £1,000 or more on kitchen cabinets.

T1a13

A misspent youth helps the joystick generation

FROM TUNIK VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A GROWING body of research in America suggests that computer and video games — for long the bane of parents who believe that such gadgets do no more than rot their children's brains — may benefit the health of young minds.

Scientists argue that these games, far from adding the heads of adolescents, help children to develop their skills of concentration, "visualisation" and problem-solving.

According to a report in *The New York Times* yesterday, some experts even believe that computer games are a contributing factor in the steady rise in IQ scores in the industrialised world in recent years.

In a study of about 200

students in America and Italy, published in *The Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*, researchers concluded that computer games "are not a waste of time". Instead, they should be seen as a form of intellectual exercise.

There is evidence also that a youth "misspent" in the company of computer games serves as useful grooming for a role in a high-technology economy. According to Patricia Greenfield, a Professor of Psychology at the University of California in Los Angeles, "the same skills used in computer games are basic technological literacy skills, and these skills are extremely important in the modern world".

Another scholar, J. C. Herz,

from Harvard University, echoes that thesis. In her recent book, *Joystick Nation: How Video Games Ate Our Quarters, Won Our Hearts, and Rewired Our Minds*, she wrote: "Video games are perfect training for life in *fin de siècle* America, where daily existence demands the ability to parse 16 kinds of information being fired at you simultaneously from telephones, televisions, fax machines, pagers, personal digital assistants, voice messaging systems, postal delivery, e-mail and the Internet."

"You have to recognise patterns in this whirl of data and you have to do it fast. Those to the joystick born have a built-in advantage."

Such statements would have been treated as heresy only five years ago by parents and teachers. Fears of a "mindless addiction" once led C. Everett Koop, a former US Surgeon-General, to say that American children were "into these games body and soul".

Yet those fears are now crumbling as evidence emerges that a childhood spent with computer games does not turn potential solid citizens into unproductive vegetables. According to Idit Harel, founder of an Internet website for children, "the kids who grew up immersed in computer games are now in their 20s and they are for the most part a generation of bright, thoughtful and successful young people".



Computer ace: Matthew Broderick and Ally Sheedy pit their wits against the system in *Wargames*

Rabbi laundered drug money

New York: A rabbi and his brother yesterday admitted money-laundering charges after channelling more than \$3 million in Colombian drug proceeds through a Brooklyn synagogue and yeshiva (religious school).

The men were charged with being part of a group of Orthodox Jews who laundered the \$3.5 million (£2.3

million) from Colombian and Dominican drug dealers in 1995 and 1996. By putting the cash through Congregation Eitz Chaim and Bobover Yeshiva and another organization, Chaim Shel Sholem, all located in the heavily Orthodox Jewish Borough Park section of Brooklyn, they were able to move the money to Swiss bank accounts and then

back to the dealers. Rabbi Mahir Reiss, 47, and his brother Abraham Reiss, 48, pleaded guilty in Brooklyn federal court.

Mahir faces up to four years' jail, while Abraham faces three years. The men, to be sentenced in March, agreed to give up \$1 million hidden in bank and stock accounts. (Reuters)

Bosnian capital gives its heart to 'saviour' Clinton

BILL CLINTON cemented his almost mythical status among Bosnians yesterday by becoming the first American President to visit Sarajevo, their capital, and the most warmly received dignitary of the post-war period.

People such as the Pope and the U2 rock group have trodden the same path this year, but the pomp, chaos and traffic jams surrounding their tours paled when compared with the Clinton roadshow.

The President, seen as the saviour of the Bosnian nation, the man who succeeded where Europe's leaders failed, did not disappoint, and gave a heartfelt speech in the national theatre that visibly moved many Bosnian politicians. Even Biljana Plavsic, the Bosnian Serb President and a stranger now reviled in the town of her youth, appeared to be on the point of tears.

After listening to the Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra, Mr Clinton, who was accompanied by his wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea, gave a ten-minute speech that was relayed to hundreds outside and broadcast live on national television. "You have seen what war has wrought," he said, his voice cracking. "You know what peace can bring. Settle the chance before you. You can do nothing to change the past, but if you can let it go, you can do everything to build the future. The world is waiting, the choice is yours. May you make the right one."

He was applauded by President Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Kresimir Zubak, the Croat member of the state presidency, both of whom he had praised. Conspicuously, he did not thank Momcilo Krajcinovic, the Bosnian Serb member of the presidency, who did not attend the theatre



Sarajevans turned out in force for a morale-boosting — and theatrical — first visit by a US President, Tom Walker reports

ceremony, although he did meet Mr Clinton earlier.

The Clintons and their vast entourage, including Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, and Bob and Elizabeth Dole, touched down in a C-17 transport, *The Spirit of Bob Hope*, in thick mist at Sarajevo at 7.30am, their flight from Washington having been re-routed through Germany.

A huge security operation that had taken days of planning and rehearsing sprang into action, with snipers and

City, where to the crowd's delight the Clintons made a brief walkabout in the cathedral square and took a coffee in the Bosnia corner cafe.

"He is up there like a god to us, like Tito," said Hamdija Krestalica, who had brought with him his entire administration department from the central post office. "After Tito, he was the first one who really supported the idea of the Bosnian nation."

For some European observers the Clinton phenomenon was a galling experience. "It is a cosmetic exercise," said one French officer in Nato's Stabilisation Force, wincing at the sometimes chocolate-box nature of the speech. "I do not know who he is fooling — probably the Americans. I hope not the Bosnians." A colleague was equally acid: "It is appropriate that he gives out this stuff in a theatre."

Mr Clinton told his audience that "we gather in the dawn after a long darkness" and urged the politicians staring at him from the front row to heed the Dayton peace accord, now two years old but hardly implemented.

"Those who rise to that responsibility will have the full support of the international community; those who shirk it will isolate themselves," he said in a pointed reference to Mrs Plavsic, the one Serb leader apparently prepared to do business with Washington and the West.

Photograph, page 20

After Tito, he was the first to really support the idea of the Bosnian nation

anti-terrorism experts guarding every angle for a potential assassin. Helicopters whirled overhead and from farther above came the quiet drone of unseen Awaacs spyplanes.

The initial part of call for the 30-vehicle motorcade was the national museum, where they were driven into a green tent, where photographers were occasionally invited to snap the American leader with the joint Bosnian presidency.

The column of gleaming vehicles then made an unscheduled detour into the Old



President Clinton in Sarajevo yesterday with his daughter, Chelsea, and wife, Hillary. Later, the family flew north to visit American troops

Serb hardliner defeated at fourth ballot

By TOM WALKER

SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC looked to have earned himself more breathing space yesterday as his socialist candidate celebrated victory in the run-off for the Serbian presidency.

A collective sigh of relief was breathed by diplomats and Western capitals, where the resurgence of extreme Serbian nationalism, under the maverick lawyer and one-time paramilitary leader Vojislav Seselj, was viewed with horror. The election commission said that Milan Milutinovic, the former foreign minister, won 58.6 per cent of votes polled on

Sunday, compared with 38.1 for Mr Seselj. Turnout had been just above the 50 per cent level necessary for validity — the flaw in Mr Seselj's apparent victory last month. Mr Milutinovic said last night: "We have finally finished these elections. Now it is time to get to work."

Mr Seselj, whose share of the vote collapsed, claimed that widespread fraud was behind the socialist victory. He blamed ballot-stuffing and intimidation of his party's representatives in the southern region of Kosovo. The majority Albanian population there rarely votes, but turnout was mysteriously high. Belgrade's middle classes, exhausted by

an election that gave them a choice between Mr Milosevic's socialism and Mr Seselj's recipe of hard work and xenophobia, appeared to have voted largely to stop the financial drain of the constant re-runs — it was the fourth time they had been asked to vote in three months.

Television probably played a part in Mr Seselj's downfall. The state channel broadcast a damning portrait of him an hour before the election media blackout. It showed selected highlights of Mr Seselj's parliamentary years, including him beating up opponents and pulling out a gun.



Milosevic: relief as socialist wins run-off

Bethlehem pilgrims find no room at the Star hotel

AND she brought forth her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 11, 7.

THE same fate is likely to befall the millions of Christian pilgrims expected here to mark the rapidly approaching millennium as the ill-equipped West Bank town has only 900 hotel rooms, and plans an increase of only 600 by 2000.

Expectations of hosting four million people during the millennium year are a "joke", Amir Dajani, a hotel management lecturer at Bethlehem University, told. European officials attending a Destination Christmas conference held to coincide with the launching of the logo for Bethlehem 2000, the bid to capitalise on the traditional birthplace of Jesus, six miles south of Jerusalem.

In addition to the woeful lack of infrastructure and accommodation in the town, its tourism industry has been affected by successive crises arising from Islamic suicide attacks, Israeli closures and the disastrous knock-on effect of November's massacre in Luzon, in which 58 tourists



Hanna Nasser, left, the town Mayor, is finding it hard to feel festive, Christopher Walker reports

were slaughtered. With tourism this month in Bethlehem down an estimated 20 per cent on December 1996, itself a bad year because of the bus bombings which killed dozens of Israelis in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, there is an atmosphere of deep gloom hanging over the town where visitors are pounced on by sellers of olive-wood trinkets and unemployment is running at more than 40 per cent.

"The few tourists who have so far arrived this Christmas period are all frightened," said Lieutenant Maynal al-Sous, 28, one of the few women serving in the uniformed tourist police of Yasser Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority. "All the tourists who come here are frightened because we are Arabs. They

automatically think we are extremists and that we will kill them. But that is not the case at all — they will be safe here."

The unease has been increased by a spate of stoning and shooting incidents near Bethlehem in recent days in which one Israeli was seriously wounded and three others were injured when their car overturned under repeated attack by Palestinians hurling rocks. Palestinian feelings have been inflamed by Sunday's claim by Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, that the West Bank — land taken from Jordan in 1967 — "is part of Israel proper".

In addition to fear of attack by terrorists — who have yet to target foreigners in the way that Islamic fundamentalists

in Egypt and Algeria have done — visitors to Bethlehem have been hit by the draconian Israeli closures imposed after every suicide attack.

For more than 15 days this September, all tourist buses were barred from passing the huge Israeli roadblock that straddles the entrance road some two miles from the Church of the Nativity," said Michel Kreitem, one of a group of Bethlehem hoteliers.

Mr Kreitem, 62, is owner of Bethlehem's leading hotel, the Star, which by what he calls "a minor miracle" has all its 72 rooms let on Christmas eve for every other day of the year, because of the widespread fears of terrorism and even another Israeli-Arab war, occupancy rates do not rise above 25 per cent.

"Until a few days ago our only guests were going to be a group of 20 intrepid pilgrims from London who, unlike everybody else, did not cancel in the wake of the breakdown in the peace process and the Luzon massacre," Mr Kreitem said. "Then out of the blue, staff and visiting family from the Chilean Embassy — all Roman Catholics — suddenly wanted 110 rooms. I gave them every one I had and sent the others to another hotel."

Mr Kreitem, whose family owns the hotel jointly with that of his wife Mary, who followed in biblical footsteps and travelled south from their native Nazareth in 1948, is pessimistic about any improvement in the mood of despair gripping the managers of Bethlehem's 11 hotels and hospices. "Tourism is a factor of the political situation," he said, waving a sheaf of recent cancellations.

The absence of seasonal cheer has been reinforced by the lack of a proper Christmas tree in Manger Square, dominated by a tasteless artificial creation supplied by a local businessman, while some coloured lights have been strung haphazardly over a fir growing in the garden of the Orient Palace Hotel next to the 4th-century Church of the Nativity.

"Last year the Israelis impounded our 46ft tree from the people of Finland in the docks until three hours before the Christmas Eve ceremonies were about to start," said Hanna Nasser, the Mayor of Bethlehem. "They said it might have disease, which was nonsense. We will not be humiliated again, so we have refused all offers of trees from abroad."



Michel Kreitem, who is lucky to have no vacancies at his hotel for Christmas

Negev jobless stage protest

Jerusalem: Binayamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, under pressure to put job-creation ahead of peace, yesterday visited the southern Negev area, where the jobless have been protesting for days (Ross Dunn writes).

In the town of Ofatim, protesters called on the Government to stop funding the Palestinian Authority. For days, demonstrators have been burning tyres outside the mayor's office. Mr Netanyahu outlined a plan to create 300 new jobs but his move was undermined by news that a textile factory was to move its production to Jordan.

Italian call to scrap US bases

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Italian centre-left Government of Professor Romano Prodi was yesterday faced with demands from its hard-left parliamentary allies to scrap all American bases on Italian soil.

Armando Cossutta, the president of the Communist Refoundation, the Marxist party which holds the balance of power in the Italian Lower House, told *La Stampa* it was "unacceptable" that a "foreign power" had bases over which Italy had little or no control. "There is no justification for the bases. There is no threat from the Eastern bloc any

more. Furthermore, there is no guarantee that the United States might not use its bases for purposes which are at odds with our own foreign policy," he said.

Government officials emphasise that Italy is fully committed to Nato and the maintenance of Western security in the Mediterranean and the Middle East. But they also admit that the Government is preparing the ground for a review of the 40-year-old "secret treaties" governing US and Nato facilities. Officials said the conditions under which the bases operate in

Italy were drawn up in the late 1950s and had never been made public or debated by the Italian parliament.

Italy considers itself a linchpin of Western security interests in the Mediterranean at a time when the East-West conflict has been replaced by Balkan instability and fear of the impact on southern Europe of Islamic fundamentalism in hotspots such as Algeria, Kosovo or Cyprus, and has left the Italians to raise and lead a multinational force for Albania.

PRODUCT RECALL PLEASE STOP USE IMMEDIATELY

'B&Q Nite Life Snowmen' (Barcode: 5014957075146 B&Q code: 24288194)

We have identified a potential safety problem with the candle within the B&Q Nite Life Snowmen which will have been purchased only from B&Q Supercentres, B&Q Warehouse, B&Q Depots or The Depot since 23rd September 1997.

If you have purchased the above product, please take the following action:

1. IMMEDIATELY STOP USE.
2. Return to your nearest B&Q Supercentre, B&Q Warehouse, B&Q Depot or The Depot for a full refund.

HELPLINE NUMBER 0121 778 1471

OPEN 9.30 TO 5.00PM DAILY (excluding Christmas Day)

We apologise for any inconvenience, but we are sure that our customers will appreciate the need to take any safety issue very seriously. Should you require further information, then please do not hesitate to contact us on the helpline number above.

B&Q

B&Q plc
Purviswood House
1 Hampshire Corporate Park
Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh
Hampshire SO53 3YX



BRavo *Spain*



White Christmas

requires it. A Christmas
the family. Without these
lands. We will give you
forgettable. Experience a white Christmas



SPANISH TOURIST OFFICE Manchester Square, 22-232 LONDON, W1M 5AP (Great Britain) Tel: 44/171/486 80 77 / 486 80 33 Fax: 44/171/486 80 34

مكتبة من الكتب

French police face new riots over shootings

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

FRENCH police were last night braced for a fresh outbreak of violence after a demonstration in support of one of two young men shot dead by officers last week.

The shootings sparked three days of riots in a suburb of Lyons and the outskirts of Paris, highlighting what President Chirac refers to as France's "social fracture".

In La Duchère, a district of Lyons, youths set cars alight and attacked police and firefighters after Fabrice Fernandez, a 24-year-old father of three, died in the local police station last week.

According to witnesses, Jean Cavalho, 40, an officer who has already been sanctioned twice for professional misconduct, pointed M Fernandez's own shotgun in his face and pulled the trigger, not realising it was loaded.

In an attempt to defuse local anger, the Lyons prosecution service altered the charges against M Cavalho from manslaughter to murder, and Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the Interior Minister, called for calm.

But with the victim's family and friends organising a protest march last night, the authorities said that they expected the rioters to defy M Chevènement and continue their violent protest.

In Dammerie-les-Lys, east of Paris, two policemen were injured in the early hours yesterday when a gang of youths threw petrol bombs from the roofs of high-rise buildings.

Riot police responded by firing teargas grenades, some of which blew out the windows of flats, forcing residents to flee into the street.

Violence in Dammerie-les-Lys exploded after police shot dead a local teenager, Abdelkader Bouziane, as he drove at speeds of up to 90mph through one police roadblock and tried to force a second last week.

The 16-year-old, in his mother's Volkswagen Golf, had driven through red lights and failed to stop when requested by police in a car, officers said.

His death brought dozens of people on to the streets for what is now a familiar sight in the poor, crime and unemployment-ridden suburbs of French cities: a confrontation between police and youths.

The differences this time are the scale of the violence and apparent determination of the rioters to continue their action.

"But there are some factors that are always the same," said Hervé Vieillard Baron, a sociologist specialising in suburban decay. "Young people who have not worked for years are ready to explode. Family breakdown and personal problems combine with unemployment."

Commentators noted that the rioters in Dammerie-les-Lys were mostly of Arab origin, highlighting the difficulties of ethnic integration in French society.

The violence comes amid a fierce political row after a commitment by Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, to treat illegal immigrants with "humanity".

Centre-right politicians said that he had effectively abandoned the fight against illegal immigration.

However, other observers pointed out that M Fernandez was of French origin and the rioters in La Duchère were white. The Lyons suburb is poor, but does not have a large immigrant community.



A riot policeman in Lyons after protesters set fire to a car at the weekend

WORLD IN BRIEF

Ankara-Athens clash on spying

Ankara: Turkey and Greece yesterday announced tit-for-tat expulsions of diplomats in a spy row that signals a worsening of their strained relations. Ankara said it had asked Athens to withdraw Elstratos Haralambus, a diplomat at the Greek Consulate in Istanbul, for "activities incompatible with his status", the diplomatic euphemism for spying.

The Turkish press had accused Mr Haralambus of gathering information on military installations and aiding Kurdish guerrillas. Greece denied the accusation and said it would expel a Turkish diplomat of equal rank. The countries have been at loggerheads recently about Cyprus, military tension in the Aegean Sea and Turkey's faltering attempts to join the European Union. (Reuters) Letters, page 17

Rebel attack leaves 30 dead

At least 30 soldiers were killed, dozens injured and some taken hostage when left-wing guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) ambushed a remote southern army camp yesterday (Gabriella Gammari writes). Some 200 FARC rebels attacked the Cerro de Patasoy army camp at dawn while soldiers slept, according to an SOS message. The attack was believed to be in retaliation for violence by paramilitary groups backed by the army.

Jurists urge Tibet vote

Geneva: In a major setback to Beijing, the International Commission of Jurists declared that Chinese-ruled Tibet was "under alien subjugation" and called for a UN-run referendum to decide its status. In a 265-page report, the leading world jurists said Chinese Communist Party leaders had declared "total war" on the exiled Dalai Lama, and were also threatening to eradicate his influence. (Reuters)

Bond in wake of 'Titanic'

New York: *Titanic*, at \$200 million (£120 million) the most expensive film ever made, grossed an estimated \$27.6 million at the box office over its debut weekend in America, earning more than *Tomorrow Never Dies*, the new James Bond movie, also making its opening (Tunku Varadarajan writes). This is the first time a Bond film has failed to top ticket sales on its debut. The normally invincible 007 made \$26 million.

Students jeer ex-Presidents

Seoul: Two corrupt former South Korean Presidents walked out of jail to jeers from students and cheers from their rich neighbours (Jennifer Veale writes). Police fired teargas to break up students chanting "No freedom for Chun [Doo-hwan] and Roh [Tae-woo]". Neighbours gave the pair a rapturous welcome. Far East worries, page 22

Sharif rescues injured

Islamabad: Nawaz Sharif, right, the Pakistani Prime Minister, pulled three injured men from their wrecked vehicle after a fatal motorway crash on the Islamabad-Lahore motorway, the *Nation* newspaper reported. It said Mr Sharif instructed the driver of his official car to take the injured to Chakwal District Hospital, 20 miles away. One person died in the accident in which a vehicle hit a side wall. (Reuters)



Golden Gate death plunge

San Francisco: A girl, aged two, sightseeing on the Golden Gate Bridge with her parents and brother, aged four, slipped through a 9ft gap between the railing and pavement and plunged 180ft to her death. Her father failed in desperate attempts to reach her as she lay on a construction site. She was airlifted to a children's hospital, but died. (AP)

Sporting strife as Gallic teams give cock the bird

BY ADAM SAGE

FRENCH sport is facing increasing controversy over a decision to remove the cock, the country's national symbol, from the Olympic logo.

The move has split the sporting establishment and infuriated some of its top athletes, one of whom described it as outrageous.

Fiercely independent, stubborn and with a loud voice, the cock represents qualities that the French see as essential and historic parts of their nature. They are enchanted by its refusal to stop crowing, regardless of what is going on.

The Gallic equivalent of the British bulldog was an unofficial national symbol for hundreds of years before being made the official Olympic mascot in 1908. Virtually all national teams have at one time worn an embroidered



The World Cup cock

cock on their shirts and supporters often take live ones to international matches. French television viewers never tire of seeing footage of a policeman chasing a Gallic cock around Twickenham at an England-France rugby match in the 1980s.

Jean Talbot, a senior French sports administrator, said that

the cock was "the most remarkable animal because it carries on singing even when it is standing in dirt".

But the French National Olympic Committee has decided to abandon the cock and replace it by a logo representing the five Olympic rings and the word "France". The committee said the bird was in decline, with only 20 of the country's 93 national sports teams now using it.

The decision, made last week, sparked an angry backlash when made public at the weekend. Alain Mimoun, a former French marathon runner, declared: "For me, the cock is the true symbol of France. What they have done is outrageous, disgusting."

The bird, however, still has a future as a national symbol. The mascot for next year's football World Cup in France is a Gallic cock.

Sumatran 'Dr Death' on trial

Jakarta: The trial opened yesterday of Indonesia's "Dr Death", a self-proclaimed sorcerer who has been charged with killing 42 women over the past 13 years.

Ahmad Suradji allegedly confessed to the police that he murdered the women and drank their saliva in an attempt to increase his black magic powers.

Hundreds of people flocked to the court in the north Sumatran town of Lubukpakam to see the chained and heavily guarded 42-year-old traditional healer from the nearby village of Sei Semayang.

His killing spree is said to have begun in 1984 after Suradji was told by his father in a dream that his sorcerer's powers would be greatly enhanced if he could drink the saliva of 70 dead women.

The long and short of US divorce case

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A MULTIMILLIONAIRE, 6ft 5in tall, is suing his 5ft 4in wife for divorce, accusing her of subjecting him to cruel, inhuman treatment and physical and verbal abuse. Examples of "cruelty" cited in court documents include a "forced circumcision" and a "painful facelift".

Bjorn Aaserod, a Norwegian-born investment banker, also accuses his wife Michelle, a petite Georgia belle, of tricking him into a "sham marriage" to milk him of much of his wealth.

Mrs Aaserod, nine years younger than her 40-year-old husband, has filed a counterclaim in the Manhattan Supreme Court, accusing him of being a sexual pervert and serial adulterer.

Her terms for a divorce include all rights to the couple's six-storey townhouse in the Upper East Side of New York — worth at least \$4 million (£2.5 million) — two Rolls-Royces, and half of her husband's fortune, thought to amount to about \$40 million. She has also asked Judge Walter Tolu, who is deciding the case, to award her \$55,000 a month until a settlement is reached.

Mrs Aaserod says she could not accept her husband's sexual perversities, which she claims included frequent sojourns to brothels and strip clubs, and so many calls to sex lines that she had to block access to the numbers from their home.

Mr Aaserod describes his wife as a "gold-digger". He is seeking court protection from her, alleging that she has often threatened to kill him.

and modernisation. Jean-Paul Bucher, chairman of the Groupe Flo chain of brasseries, said: "Restaurants are like the rest of society. They are trying to find themselves."

After the nouvelle cuisine of the 1980s, chefs have returned to traditional recipes this decade, with such classic French dishes as pot-au-feu. But at a time when their counterparts elsewhere in the world are engaging in culinary adventure, Gallic cuisine can seem boring and insular, according to some food experts.

Kazuo Matsusaka, a Japanese-born chef who worked in Los Angeles for more than 20 years before taking over at the Buddha Bar, one of Paris's most

Parisians desert restaurants as London turns the tables

Adam Sage reports on increasing evidence that restaurateurs across the Channel are suffering from a shaky economy and lack of imagination



French dining: more abstemious

CULTURAL conservatism and economic difficulties have combined to produce a deepening crisis in French gastronomy, according to a survey published yesterday. The crisis has been described as symptomatic of a wider malaise in French society.

According to the survey, published by *Le Figaro*, 10 per cent fewer French people visited restaurants this year. Citing figures compiled by Gira Conseil, a specialist consultancy, the newspaper said those who did eat out spent less money, with only a few prepared to pay more than Fr200 (£20) for a three-course meal with wine and coffee.

The survey added weight to a widespread feeling in France that the country's capital is falling behind its British counterpart. "London explodes, Paris sleeps", is the headline in this week's issue of the magazine *L'Événement du Jeudi*.

Joel Fleury, owner of the Grand Colbert brasserie in Paris, said the trend was the result of an economy unable to

offer growth and employment. "The middle classes, even the upper middle classes, have a tight budget. They want value for money... a good welcome, a good atmosphere and service and a correct meal," he said.

However, other restaurateurs said their troubles sprang from a failure to forge a path between Gallic traditions

fashionable — and un-French — restaurants, said: "The French have an extraordinary history and there is no other country like this. But there is a sense in which they are too weighed down by their own culture and traditions. They have to open up and look at what's going on in the rest of the world."

French restaurants will serve about 2.5 billion meals this year, according to the survey, far more than those in most other countries, and the average French person will spend Fr2,850 on eating out. But in 1990 restaurants provided almost three billion meals. The figure has since fallen, with a particularly sharp drop this year.

and modernisation. Jean-Paul Bucher, chairman of the Groupe Flo chain of brasseries, said: "Restaurants are like the rest of society. They are trying to find themselves."

After the nouvelle cuisine of the 1980s, chefs have returned to traditional recipes this decade, with such classic French dishes as pot-au-feu. But at a time when their counterparts elsewhere in the world are engaging in culinary adventure, Gallic cuisine can seem boring and insular, according to some food experts.

Kazuo Matsusaka, a Japanese-born chef who worked in Los Angeles for more than 20 years before taking over at the Buddha Bar, one of Paris's most

fashionable — and un-French — restaurants, said: "The French have an extraordinary history and there is no other country like this. But there is a sense in which they are too weighed down by their own culture and traditions. They have to open up and look at what's going on in the rest of the world."

French restaurants will serve about 2.5 billion meals this year, according to the survey, far more than those in most other countries, and the average French person will spend Fr2,850 on eating out. But in 1990 restaurants provided almost three billion meals. The figure has since fallen, with a particularly sharp drop this year.

UNBEATABLE CHRISTMAS VALUE!



HURRY Limited availability!

- Myrica NA1 - 166MHz Intel Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology
- 32 MB RAM
- 3D/2MB Graphics Card
- 2GB Hard Disk Drive
- 20x Speed CD ROM
- 12 Watt Stereo Speakers
- Windows 95 + Works V4.0

£645 inc. VAT

All products come with one year on-site warranty and free telephone hotline support

The Intel Inside® logo and Pentium® are registered trademarks and MMX™ is a trademark of Intel Corporation

- Myrica NA2 - 166MHz Intel Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology
- 16 MB RAM
- 3D/2MB Graphics Card
- 2GB Hard Disk Drive
- 20x Speed CD ROM
- 12 Watt Stereo Speakers
- 33.6k Fax Modem

£729 inc. VAT

- Myrica NA4 233MHz Intel Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology
- 32 MB RAM
- 3D/2MB Graphics Card
- 2.5GB Hard Disk Drive
- 20x Speed CD ROM
- 12 Watt Stereo Speakers
- 33.6k Fax Modem

£975 inc. VAT

Accepts all major credit cards.

- Myrica NA3 166MHz Intel Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology
- 32 MB RAM
- 3D/2MB Graphics Card
- 2GB Hard Disk Drive
- 20x Speed CD ROM
- 12 Watt Stereo Speakers
- 33.6k Fax Modem

£769 inc. VAT

All the above come with: MS Windows 95, MS Works V4.0, MS Encarta 97, MS Oceans and MS Money Plus

Selection of 4 CD Leisure titles

Choose your own monitor from £115 inc. VAT

Call this number to order your multimedia PC
0181 286 2222

TechDirect, Unit 20 Red Lion Business Park, Red Lion Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7QD

FUJITSU

Fujitsu is the world's second largest IT company, with a turnover in excess of \$36bn, and operating on a global basis. The company has been operating for over 60 years, during which time it has become a market leader in desktop and mobile computing as well as in the areas of computer memory, display devices and software. This enviable position has resulted from its continued investment in R & D, (currently running at 10% of revenues) which has ensured the consistent production of reliable, leading edge products designed to meet the needs of the end user.

An anorexic at the feast

Christmas is fraught with stress for children with eating disorders. **Moira Petty** reports on how parents can cope in a time of crisis

Few of us need to be prompted to eat, drink and be merry at Christmas. For those suffering from eating disorders, though, the festive season can be a time of crisis.

The succession of rich meals and tempting snacks may only harden the resolve of the anorexic to avoid eating, while the bulimic may be plunged into a binge-vomit cycle.

Dysfunctional family relationships are at the heart of many eating disorders, so the traditional Christmas get-together, which can switch rapidly from an occasion of celebration to one of confrontation, may be the cause of additional stress.

For the parents of children and teenagers suffering from anorexia nervosa or bulimia nervosa, Christmas and new year festivities will be fraught with anxiety. Those whose children are faddy eaters or fixated on dieting will be wondering how they can persuade them to eat normally

without exacerbating the problem or spoiling celebratory meals for the rest of the family.

Dr Dee Dawson, medical director of Rhodes Farm Clinic in Mill Hill, northwest London, which treats children with eating disorders, offers the following advice on getting such children — and the whole family — through Christmas. Adults should look at the mixed messages that they send out about their own attitude to food. Christmas treats should be enjoyed without protestations of guilt, and gifts of food given without apology, not: "I've brought chocolates, is that OK?"

We should also show children, by our own example, what it is normal to eat. At Christmas that probably means more than we will eat at other times of the year. Many adults will take a tiny slice of cake, but "pick bits off in private, all afternoon", so that the child is given a false view of what the adult is eating. "Nor can you expect a child to eat roast potatoes if you're having a jacket potato without butter," she says.

Dr Dawson recommends not buying diet or reduced-calorie foods. If the child has eaten a hearty Christmas lunch and asks for a low-fat yoghurt, offer a non-diet yoghurt. "They're either hungry or they're not," she says. "We're becoming a nation of health-food fanatics. In the old days, nobody was afraid of tucking into a good meal."

Where anorexics are concerned, Dr Dawson is wary of giving "simplistic" advice. Therapy for the whole family is the mainstay when treating anorexics. But Dr Dawson advocates getting the anorexic child eating straight away and not being frightened of upsetting the Christmas bonhomie.

"We don't have the right to let children stay underweight.

Feeding them will stop them getting ill, but psychologically they will still be anorexic," she cautions.

A feature of the families of most anorexics, says Dr Dawson, is that they avoid conflict at all costs and never express their true feelings. "A lot of treatment units will tell you not to worry about the eating until they've got the mind sorted out. We don't think you can afford to wait. Our approach is to be very confrontational and firm."

No matter that it is Christmas Day, the anorexic must be made to sit at the table until the plate is cleared. "Don't get into this battle until you know you're going to win. I've sat with patients all night until they've eaten."

"If you haven't been firm before, spell it out to them. Say 'Believe me, things have changed. You mustn't give in halfway through the meal and say 'Just eat two of the potatoes.'"

It is normal at Christmas

lunch to have a choice of trimmings and puddings, but the anorexic must not be allowed any options. "You must serve their lunch and tell them that that is what they are eating. If they are thin, they need more food, not less."

Dr Dawson acknowledges that this may make Christmas meals uncomfortable for family and guests, but that is a small price to pay when faced with a life-threatening illness. One concession may be to limit the numbers at the table, as anorexics find it hard to eat in front of people.

Everyone present at the celebrations should be told of the problem and the strategy to be adopted. "Get them all on your side, or they'll undermine you. Grandma might say 'I didn't make you eat all your potatoes when you were little', or siblings will cry 'Don't be mean, Mum, it's Christmas.'"

Getting the anorexic involved in the preparation of Christmas lunch is not a good idea. Anorexics are obsessed with all things culinary, and some very young children are wrongly allowed to take charge of family meals.

"Don't let them in the kitchen," says Dr Dawson. "If you let them assist you with the cooking, they'll have a fix about how much butter or cream is going in."

At Christmas, anorexics feel under greater stress because it is harder to practise their usual food-avoidance techniques, throwing away their packed lunch or claiming that they had eaten earlier. But just because it is Christmas, do not trust them or believe them when it comes to issues of food.

They must not be allowed a long list of foods that they claim to dislike. At Dr Dawson's Rhodes Farm Clinic, patients are allowed three



It is normal to have a choice at Christmas lunch but the anorexic must not be allowed options even though it may make the meal uncomfortable for others

foods that they will not eat: "But not chocolate and chips and butter because that is to do with calories and not real dislike."

The family should maintain the normal rituals of crackling-pulling and joke-telling at Christmas, but should be aware that the severely underweight child "will have no joie de vivre". They are supersensitive to disharmony in the family, so parents and relatives should avoid the nagging rows that sometimes erupt over Christmas. But arguments in which family members speak their minds and clear the air are healthy. Many anorexics secretly believe that shouting at their parents in anger, or slamming a door, will have tragic consequences, such as a parent having a heart attack.

Anorexia is a battle for control that can be availed by strong parenting. But Dr Dawson recommends that if children can be encouraged to eat at Christmas, they should be allowed some leeway in other areas. "Let them think they have some control over other parts of their lives. Let them choose what they wear to a Christmas party, or watch a lot of seasonal television — it's not going to harm them."

Christmas may be a time when parents spot the signs of anorexia because it is harder to disguise when the child cannot escape to eat alone in their own room. Signs include playing with their food, eating all of one item before moving on to another item, cutting the food into tiny pieces, removing the middle from pies, mashing food across the plate.

The average age of anorexics in Dr Dawson's unit is 13 and 14, although she has treated sufferers as young as six. Bulimics, who overeat and then purge themselves of the food or fast, tend to be in their late teens. The larger amounts

of food around at Christmas can encourage them to binge, so they must not be allowed in the kitchen alone with the leftovers. "They will eat everything in sight, but there is so much food around that nobody will question it."

Bulimics should be made to go to the lavatory before they sit down to Christmas lunch, so they will not need to go directly afterwards. Parents should be aware that gastric emptying in bulimics is often delayed, and they may vomit up to 2½ hours after the meal. They should be accompanied to the lavatory, the door left ajar, and the pan inspected before flushing as they are able to vomit silently.

Only 4 per cent of schoolchildren are truly overweight, but 60 per cent of teenagers talk about dieting. This may be more pronounced at Christmas because of the fattening

foods on offer. Few teenagers actually lose weight, says Dr Dawson, so it may be all talk and no action. Even slightly podgy children do not need to diet, and puppy fat is a normal feature of puberty. Dr Dawson points out: "I wouldn't be concerned about a teenager who decided not to eat for two days. But if Christmas Day came and they were still not eating, I would worry, because this is not normal."

Regular menstruation is a sign that all is well, while younger children should be weighed if parents are concerned. Many children are preoccupied with their body image. When buying a Christmas party outfit, they may ask: "Do my legs look fat?"

"I tend to say to my lot 'This is a really boring conversation. I don't worry about the size of my friends' thighs, but how much fun they are'. I make it clear that I don't want to get into such a conversation. You

can point out that bodies come in a range of sizes. Fashion models may be thin, but Page Three girls aren't and men like this variety," says Dr Dawson.

Exercise equipment would not be a suitable gift for a child trying unnecessarily to lose weight. A gentle walk with the family after lunch is sensible, but "not walking until the dog has no legs left," says Dr Dawson. "You should padlock a child's bicycle if they're going to be silly."

Faddy eaters can be a nuisance, but they are not medically at risk. Dr Dawson says: "I'd work hard to give them a balanced diet, but some children thrive on beans on toast. They usually grow out of it."

Parents should remember that they are the models for the child's eating habits. If, by Boxing Day, they are already planning their new year dieting regime, they should think about the effect this may have on the child.

As well as sending money, many Times readers have written letters and sent e-mails to wish Dorah well — messages Brownlee has found profoundly moving.

Cash rolls in for Dorah

Generous readers bring hope to the brave little girl who defied death

LAST week *The Times* told the story of Dorah, a South African girl who was horribly burnt as a baby, abandoned by her mother and who may now lose her eyes. The response has been overwhelming. By yesterday — just six days after Brownlee Jones's article appeared — readers had sent £41,000 to help Dorah.

The reaction has been so generous that steps are being taken to set up a trust to help the three-year-old child Brownlee found in Springs hospital, near Johannesburg. The money will be used to get Dorah to a doctor who can help, or to get a doctor to her, and to train and pay for the carers she will need during treatment.

Several doctors have already expressed an interest in Dorah and are being sent her



Our article touched hearts

medical details. However, Brownlee and the trust would still like to hear from any other doctor who may be able to help. South African doctors feel that they have no option but to remove Dorah's eyes to prevent further infection. They hope that a doctor somewhere else in the world may have the knowledge and skills necessary to save her eyes.

As well as sending money, many Times readers have written letters and sent e-mails to wish Dorah well — messages Brownlee has found profoundly moving.

"When I left Britain six years ago, I thought it was a heartless place, selfish and insular," she says. "This response has made me feel like hugging everyone. We need people like Dorah to remind us of our basic humanity."

Donations to help Dorah can be sent to Victor de Gray, Barclays Premier, 16 Rose Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2UR, or paid into any bank to account 30299065, sort code 20-17-92. Cheques should be made payable to A Charity Appeal Fund for Dorah Moepena. Brownlee Jones can be contacted by e-mail: riafrica@icon.co.za. A SKY TV news report on Dorah can be seen tomorrow between 7 and 7.15pm and 8 and 8.15pm.

Don't get tired and emotional

Father Christmas is not the only person who is up all night over the Christmas holiday. Unlike most revellers, he can sleep in next day, whereas partygoers will have to pretend to be bright and jolly.

Insomnia ranks with hangovers and indigestion as one of the major causes of emotional tension over the holiday period.

Families may not be as extended as they once were, but even now they are large enough to cause overcrowding in most people's homes. A night on a mattress on the floor is not conducive to sleep, and not the ideal way to prepare for a long and sometimes tense day.

Sleep may also be affected by the coughs and tears of children who have failed to settle into strange surroundings.

The British National Formulary, a joint publication of the British Medical Association and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, offers advice and details of all medicines for doctors. It divides insomnia into three classes — transient, short term and chronic.

Transient insomnia describes sleeplessness in those who normally sleep well but find their sleep pattern is disturbed by travel or noisy fellow guests, whether crying

MEDICINE CHEST

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

children or snoring cousins. Short-term insomnias are those whose sleeplessness is related to some passing emotional worry or temporary illness.

Chronic insomnias rarely sleep well, whatever the circumstances. The problem may arise from depression — a symptom that occurs in 75 per cent of all those suffering from psychiatric disease, whatever the precise diagnosis.

It is also a side effect of many drugs and at Christmas time in particular can stem from over-indulgence in alcohol, thereby inducing sweating.

Sleeping pills may be useful to treat transient or short-term insomnia. They should not be used for more than two or three weeks at a time, and even then should be taken intermittently. Sleeping pills are of little use to chronic insomniacs other than to give them the occasional good night, although at Christmas they may feel they deserve

such a treat. Barbiturates can be addictive and are rarely prescribed. Even those who take them should never mix them with alcohol. The short and medium-acting benzodiazepines, including Temazepam, have fallen into disrepute because they are subject to abuse.

Rohypnol, sometimes prescribed in Britain to induce sleep at odd hours, for example when flying, is the latest to be tried and found wanting by the media, but there is scant evidence to suggest that it is a commonly abused drug in this country.

It is not available on the NHS in Britain, but overseas it is taken as a sleeping pill by a million people every day and more open to abuse.

Its rapid elimination from the system makes it difficult to detect in criminal cases, but a detailed forensic analysis in America of a sample of 500 cases of drug-assisted sexual assault found traces of Rohypnol in only 1 per cent of cases — and in none of these was it the only drug given to the woman.

Alcohol was found to be the reason for the woman's incapacity to refuse sex in 20 times as many cases as Rohypnol, and cannabis was almost as often to blame. Cocaine was also

found in conjunction with other drugs. So far there have not been any proven cases of Rohypnol-associated rape in this country, and in future it will be more difficult to disguise. An extra ingredient is to be added to the tablet that will make it less soluble and will turn any drink royal blue.

A more common reason for not prescribing short or intermittent benzodiazepines is that they produce some residual ill effects the following day, and long-acting benzodiazepines such as Mogadon and Dalmane cause drowsiness.

Sleeping pills of choice are now Zimovane zopiclone and its rival Stinolol zolpidem. Both drugs are less likely to cause hangovers or sleepiness on waking, or to give such heavily dream-laden sleep as the older sleeping pills.

Any form of sleep-inducing medicine is considered medically undesirable in children. However, the situation can be so dire that some doctors prescribe Phenegan, an antihistamine, but they cause bad temper in a high number of cases.

I have always preferred Atarax, another antihistamine that is usually prescribed for children with severe itching. The drug is not given to babies under six months.

ARTS

Richard Cork on a newly revealed Renaissance image of the Nativity Pages 28-29



NOTICE TO BORROWERS

Portman Building Society announces changes to its variable mortgage interest rate for existing borrowers with effect from and including 8 January 1998, as follows:-

- Residential property standard mortgage rate increased by 0.29% gross.
- Commercial property mortgage rate increased by 0.25% gross.
- Portman Mortgage Services Limited mortgage rate increased by 0.29% gross.

Where notice is required, the change to the rate of interest will take effect on expiry of the notice period. The period of notice will commence on 8 January 1998.

This notice does not affect the following:-

- Loans currently subject to a fixed rate.
- Loans regulated by the Consumer Credit Act 1974 operating under the Personal Loan Base Rate.
- Loans that were completed on or after 8 December 1997.

PORTMAN BUILDING SOCIETY
Principal Office: Portman House, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 1LH. Telephone: (0181) 232 4444. Member of The Building Societies Association.

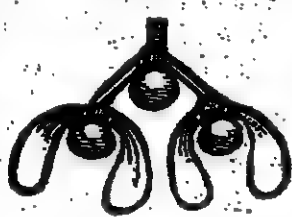
Think you can pull women? Pull the other one

Most men are dreadful at chatting up women. But a study of female body language can put an end to flirting with disaster, says Joe Joseph

Hi there. Hotlips! I noticed you turned over to this page, and I was wondering if maybe you could go some place quiet and chat a little about why it is that men have become so hopeless at flirting and... hey, where are you going? You haven't finished your drink. Can I call you tomorrow?

You see how bad it's got? And so quickly, too. It wasn't that long ago that a well-brought-up man wouldn't dream of approaching a strange woman at a party with a sentence as clumsy as: "You're the only girl here I fancy jumping into bed with!" — because he would know instinctively that the proper form in such circumstances is: "You're the only girl with whom I fancy jumping into bed!" But don't blame men for this sad slip in standards. They have become so scared of saying the wrong thing that many of them no longer say anything at all.

Nowadays most men, according to scientists at Stanford University in California, are just too shy to flirt. Kate Fox, director of the Social Issues Research Centre in Oxford, says that part of this fear of flirting "is caused by overzealous political correctness, which has come out of concerns about sexual harassment". Men who were once bewitched and bewildered by the whole flirting ritual. Some of them are so bewildered that they have completely lost their touch. When the magazine



Men have become so scared of saying the wrong thing that they no longer say anything

Maxim asked its readers what they felt when they saw women laughing, nearly a third thought the women were laughing at them. Not even with, and you but at... Naturally, all this implies that men were once the top dogs of flirting and have only recently lost the hang of the thing: this party explains why they have been so joined by the turning of the tables. But the truth is that men have never really had the hang of the flirting thing. It is women who flirt.

Certainly, it is women who flirt with any degree of consistent success. This is because men will flirt with anybody. Actually, with anything. Playing hard to get is not a dominant male trait. Some men will flirt with any woman still standing upright at the

end of a party; others see no reason to limit their options this way. A man, if desperate enough, will flirt with a watermelon.

Women, having started flirting but then decided that they have mischosen their target, will retreat gracefully. Men, on the other hand, having located a responsive woman, are pretty much impossible to deter. Nothing puts them off. If a woman starts chatting up a handsome man but then finds that he sweeps out pisties for a living, she might think twice. Compare this to the average man who — on discovering that the woman he is trying hard to seduce regularly robs banks while armed with an Uzi — will barely miss a beat. "Oh, so tell me, what are you doing after you rob Barclays next Tuesday? Fancy some dinner?"

Of course, one big genetic handicap for men is their inability to interpret a woman's sexual body language. If she is attractive enough, men are so blind with desire they can barely register her verbal language (Woman: "See this knife? Unless you get lost, I'm going to poke it into your chest." Man: "Oh, is it sharp enough? Shall I fetch you a sharpener from the kitchen?")

This is why most men have such a sorry hit rate. Women usually flirt to win. When men think they have flirted successfully, it is often only because they have chanced on a woman who is flirting assiduously with them.

Are you still surprised that a recent study by the Harris



Women chat men up with a series of body signals involving eyes and arms — signals which, when executed expertly, are devastatingly effective

Research Centre found that only 8 per cent of British men have any confidence at all in their flirting abilities. Wait, there's something even more embarrassing: 90 per cent of men can't even tell if they are being chatted up.

The explanation for this probably lies in the fact that men fondly assume that chatting up involves at least a minimal level of conversation, whereas women chat up men with a series of body signals involving eyes and arms — signals which, when executed expertly, are devastatingly effective even though they are barely detectable by the human eye, and which, when executed clumsily, can make a woman appear to have a rare combination of severe conjunctivitis and fleas.

To men, "What do you like for breakfast?" is a relatively sophisticated chat-up line (relative to "Blimey! Are those

real, huh?"). Both of these, however, are still a long way from the three words that American researchers found fell most sweetly on a woman's ear, which turned out to be "You've lost weight". This is why women prefer to flirt with their mouths closed, in the hope that men might learn to do the same.

The trouble is that men misunderstand almost all the vocabulary of female body language. Here, for example, are some familiar female gestures and what they mean to men and women:

(a) Hesitant smile. Woman's meaning: I hope he doesn't come over and talk to me. Man's interpretation: She fancies me.

(b) Hair flick. Woman's meaning: I must get my fringe cut. Man's interpretation: She fancies me.

(c) Skirt hike. Woman's meaning: Damn! My thighs have laddered. Man's interpretation: She fancies a threesome with me and Simon.

(d) Hand hold. Woman's meaning: I'm beginning to feel woozy. I hope I don't throw up on the jacket of this jerk I'm leaning against. Man's interpretation: She fancies me.

(e) Raised eyebrows. Woman's meaning: My left contact has popped out. Man's interpretation: She fancies me.

(f) Feign vomiting as man approaches. Woman's meaning: Don't bother coming another step nearer, mister. Man's interpretation: She's a lesbian.

But there is no use just criticising men. We must offer them a way to discover whether they are among the many males who have got the wrong end of the flirting stick. That way we can then steer them towards a less calamitous, more

profitable approach. As a first step, men should do the following questionnaire to assess how much remedial treatment they actually require:

1. I admire a woman who looks... (a) for the good points in others; (b) to her laurels; (c) both ways before crossing a busy road; (d) available

2. I think that it's best to tell a woman... (a) that you like to kiss on the first date; (b) that you are a married man; (c) that you like the scent she is wearing; (d) by her chest size

3. I tend to be most successful with girls who are... (a) lawyers; (b) teachers; (c) nurses; (d) desperate

4. Er, Katie — it is Katie, isn't it? — I'd really like to see you in... (a) a taxi home; (b) a day or two; (c) court; (d) a nurse's outfit

5. I like a woman who pours out... (a) her heart; (b) her troubles; (c) her own drinks; (d) of her dress

6. Many men when they see a woman wearing a see-through blouse stare straight at her breasts. I know... (a) this is ungentlemanly; (b) this is vulgar; (c) this embarrasses her; (d) I certainly do

7. Because of my dress sense, I often appear in... (a) Armani; (b) Versace; (c) Calvin Klein; (d) women's nightmares

8. I don't bother me if the girl I'm chatting up is not... (a) under 25; (b) a virgin; (c) pretty; (d) awake

But don't go thinking that just because a man might be faulty at flirting, he doesn't have someone who is very special to him, someone he refers to, romantically, as "the girl of my dreams". Sometimes she's a blonde; sometimes a woman he first set eyes on in the office lift; sometimes she's the woman from the dry cleaner's; but whoever she is, she's usually unaware that he even exists.

I'd rather be a super mum than a superwoman

Actress Teri Hatcher is giving up work to be with her baby. Claire Roberts, who also swapped champagne buckets for nappy pails, offers her moral support for the difficult time ahead

She has been Superman's girlfriend and James Bond's bedmate. They seem hard acts to follow, but not for Teri Hatcher, the actress. She has just announced that she is giving up dabbling with silver-screen superheroes to be a hands-on mother to her month-old daughter, Emerson Rose.

Going to film premieres in designer gowns and being adored by Hollywood hunkies seems a million miles away from wandering around in your dressing gown, with the only adoring gaze coming from a milk-mouthed infant. But good luck to her. It is never a decision taken lightly when you have a well-established career. I should know.

I have never dabbled with superheroes and was only a lowly national newspaper fashion editor when, five years ago, I decided to go freelance to spend more time with my daughter. I had gone back to work when Jessica was three months old, outwardly determined to fight the fight of working mothers and prove it was all possible.

I was going to report on the fashion collections four times a year and be the perfect mother at the same time. Milan, London, Paris, New York, Chiswick play group. No sweat. But inwardly, from the first anguished day of leaving Jessica with a nanny, I knew I had got it all wrong. Stupidly, it took me almost two years and three nannies to make the break, to opt for the "good life" in a remote Cornish farmhouse and to work free-

lance only when immediate family could care for Jessica, now seven, and later my second daughter, Louella, four.

When I announced to colleagues that I was leaving work, I received a mixed response (as I am sure Teri Hatcher did from her girlfriends). Some women looked at me as though I had gone mad: they were certain that I was about to swap my Whistles power suit for a kaftan and my Manolo Blahnik heels for leather flipflops. Others whispered that it was the right move and just what they would do in the same situation.

Like my old office, the world of working mothers is divided. There are those like Teri Hatcher, 33, who are prepared to make life changes. It is not an easy option, particularly for women who have waited until their thirties to have children. Any woman who has had a career, earned a reasonable wage and been independent will find giving all that up is almost as big a wrench as leaving the baby with a nanny. By the time the baby arrives, working women have got used to a comfortable standard of living. Being able to slip out at lunchtime to buy that silk shirt



Teri Hatcher: her decision was prompted by the Louise Woodward case

you have laid your eye on or splashing out on a bottle of Moët on the way home are addictive treats.

This is exactly what Liz Tom misses. Eight years ago, aged 30, she gave up her champagne lifestyle to become a full-time mother.

"Mine is a typical riches to rags story," she laughs. "My

partner and I not only gave up our £100,000 joint salaries but also our London life because we wanted to bring up our children without nannies in Cornwall."

Liz struggled to work as a £500-a-day management trainer for a year after having her daughter, Gosel, before she conceded that the juggling

act was impossible. "Working with a baby was one of the most stressful times of my life," she recalls. "I was rushing out at coffee breaks to breastfeed Gosel in a room where my baby and nanny were installed. It wasn't worth it."

Liz, who now has a third baby, 11-month-old Ezekiel, is certain that she made the right decision, although she still resents the lack of money.

Of course, Teri Hatcher will not be describing her lifestyle as riches to rags eight years on. With a wealthy TV producer husband, a £1 million mansion in the Hollywood Hills and a healthy bank account, money will not be Ms Hatcher's big worry. "I just feel lucky I can afford to stay at home," says the actress whose life-changing decision was prompted by the case of Louise Woodward, the British au pair convicted of manslaughter in America after the death of a child in her care.

What might get to Ms Hatcher, though, is the lack of status attached to motherhood. I know from experience that if I had given up work completely when I handed in my notice, I would be a basket case by now. Five years later, I realise how sexy the status of working women can be. When I was a fashion editor, being sent presents by designers and beauty companies was an everyday perk. Being frowned over by PRs was a tiresome interruption to my work. Now a bit of fawning from anyone in between

school runs and tea parties would not go amiss. And men, despite all the intensive training designed to make them "new", still talk to working women — their equals — in a more animated and interested way.

Then there are the women who could afford to give up work and look after their children but categorically do not want to. Nicola Horlick, the City high-flyer, springs to mind. She may have been dubbed "Superwoman" but in the eyes of most mothers she is anything but. Worse still — try working for these women and you will find that they expect as much from their female employees as they give themselves. "If I am not at home to put my children to bed, nor will you be," seems to be their motto.

They kid themselves, constantly saying that their children are stimulated by having six different au pairs in three months and that they could not do the child-rearing as well as a woman who has been trained as a nanny. They also trot out that tired old expression "quality time", which most women recognise as a feeble excuse that no longer convinces anyone, least of all their children. Then there is another category: women who would like to give up work but cannot. Many working mothers leave their home each morning knowing that they should throw the company car keys down the drain and take over the care of their precious baby. In some cases, they work because of genuine financial need; in others it is because of a fear of the unknown. Play group meetings and coffee mornings with women they cannot relate to can seem intimidating, and I know of one woman whose husband will not let her stop work because he is worried she will vegetate at home. These women deserve far more sym-

pathy than those who say they will give up work but never do.

We have all been to dinner parties where there is a high-powered working mother who claims that babies do not need their mothers as much as toddlers do. She will give up work when her son is two, she says. Two years on and she is still working, but now she claims that school-age children need their parents far more than toddlers. She will give up work when her son is five. The deadlines continue to be extended until she claims that the most important time for children to have their mother's full attention is when

their lachrymose offspring are doing their A levels. By this time the little son is a big son and cannot think of anything worse than his mother cramping his style, so she carries on working because "she is no longer needed at home".

I have no doubts that Teri Hatcher has made the right decision, but if she thinks she has taken a straightforward option, she has a rough ride ahead. As Liz Tom puts it: "You feel guilty working as a mother, but you also feel guilty not contributing to the family income and not fulfilling your potential. In short, you can't win."

NOTICE OF VARIATION OF INTEREST RATES

Our variable Mortgage rate will increase from 7.59% (7.8% APR) to 7.94% (8.2% APR) per annum. Our variable Equity Release rate will increase from 8.59% (9.0% APR) to 8.94% (9.4% APR) per annum.

Both take effect from 1st January 1998 for new and existing borrowers.



DIRECT LINE MORTGAGES

0181 649 9099 0161 831 9099 0141 221 9099
LONDON MANCHESTER GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. TTPN111

www.directline.co.uk
Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 250 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5SH. Registered in England No. 2372702.

Don't punish the needy, Mr Blair

Conrad Russell on the injustice in Labour's welfare reform

It was apparent well before the election that Tony Blair intended to finance health and education by reducing the social security budget. There is nothing wrong with that: for most of the Conservative years, social security was both the biggest and the fastest growing area of government spending. Any new government would have wanted to change that.

What is now clear is that Mr Blair believes he can reduce the social security budget by changing the social security system. That is a bad case of shooting the messenger. The social security budget is demanded, and therefore largely outside the department's control. People become a charge because they are in need and if social security does not take the strain, it tends to fall on the budgets of other ministries.

By far the biggest item in the social security budget is pensions, and the biggest cause of increase in pension spending is that we are living longer. Governments would be ill-advised to try to put this change into reverse. And tinkering at the margins which divide public from private provision does nothing to reduce the cost to society. The second cause of increased spending is growing social sensitivity to disability. This is the mark of a civilised society, and any government which tries to reverse it is unlikely to enjoy a second term. The third cause is relationship breakdown. Parliament has accepted reluctantly that it is beyond the Government's power to reverse this change: heretofore the patients must minister to themselves.

The fourth cause of increased demand is growth in unemployment and under-employment. Under-employment, for these purposes, can be defined as employment at rates which need to be supplemented by in-work benefits. This is the only cause of increased demand which is under government control. But not under the control of the Department of Social Security. The case of housing benefit is an example. The underlying problem is that many people earn too little to pay market rents. This used to be met by subsidies from the Department of the Environment. The subsidies now come through social security, so one of the biggest apparent increases in social security spending is simply a transfer from another department.

Recent attempts to restrict housing benefit seem to be having the effect that people cannot afford to be housed, and so cannot work. This is the Treasury shooting itself in the foot. If social security does not meet the need, the need does not go away.

Whenever the cost of poverty has become burdensome, attempts have been made to blame the poor for unemployment as an excuse for not relieving them. One Essex village in the reign of Charles II even stigmatised its poor by making them wear a yellow star. Where Tudor England used to blame "sturdy beggars", we now blame "welfare dependency". There were always a few anecdotal cases to

sustain this myth but when the economy picked up, they always seemed to disappear. Welfare benefits are now far too low to encourage "welfare dependency".

None of this is to say that the welfare state does not need change. The basic idea of Welfare to Work is good. The Taylor review, which is trying to remove poverty traps, was badly needed, and Liberal Democrats wish it well. Welfare to Work is to be praised for creating opportunity and for giving a chance to acquire skills, whose lack accounts for most vacancies which remain unfilled for any length of time.

What must be stressed is that if all this is to be successful, it must be ancillary to changes in the real economy. Welfare to Work offers employment, not employment and will succeed only if jobs are available. To that end, rebuilding the London Tube, or lowering the value of the pound, would contribute far more than anything the Department of Social Security can do. Removing poverty traps, as Liberal Democrats found when costing our manifesto, is not a cheap strategy. It cannot be done as a cost-cutting exercise.

We must beware the danger that Welfare to Work may turn into a form of peacetime conscription. Youth training, which seems to be the model for much of Welfare to Work, is a salutary warning. There, refusal of any training place has been punished by total denial of benefit. When we get cases such as the asthmatic who was offered training as a painter, this is as inefficient as it is unjust. Denial of benefit does more to fill the prisons and the hospitals than it does to fill the job centres, and it is not a cheap option. The right to refuse a job is an essential safeguard of the free market. Welfare reform must not destroy that right, or the power of the employer will become absolute.

These safeguards are even more important when the Government talks of helping the disabled to work. The ambition is laudable, and Professor Stephen Hawking is a reminder of what can be achieved. What must be understood is that between the able-bodied and the disabled, there is a very long spectrum. Most can do some jobs, but the final judgment of which ones must rest with the disabled themselves.

This is not constitutional reform: this time there can be no Liberal Democrat collaboration. We fought the last election against Labour's welfare proposal. We want to reduce the cost of the welfare state, but by creating jobs, not by cutting benefits. We want to help people off benefit, but by creating opportunities not by starving them into submission. We are not in the business of running the benefit office on the River Kwai. When they set up their working party, Labour will be on their own. Indeed, it seems Mr Blair will be on his own.

Lord Russell is social security spokesman for the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords.



God bless the deadline

From the Dome to the Christmas dinner, we all need to be set a target

A strange and mighty wonder: through these pages on Saturday Simon Jenkins very nearly got me cheering for the Dome. I have been a cynic about the thing from the outset: too late, too vague, too wasteful, too naïf to love. With every successive outburst about how we must call it an "Experience" and look out for the "Euan Factor", my heart sank.

Besides, I travel often into historic Greenwich just up the river, where I once lived and still haunt the National Maritime Museum. This brings on twinges of rage and dismay that this place — England's Versailles, if only something decent could be done with the Naval College — should be handled piecemeal and meanly while up the road a nifty old gasworks site is paved with Lottery gold.

There are also twinges of doubt over getting these millions in: approaches to Greenwich are sabotaged daily by the railway service, the Blackwall Tunnel, the Docklands Intermittent Railway and the Old Kent Road. They will have to be pretty quick to solve that one.

But I dunno. Commissioner Jenkins bravely defended the magnificent conception and the £450 million. He said its insides would sweep us up and show us a far horizon: that there would be time in there, and human aspiration and a huge body with veins and arteries and a Tower of Serious Play and a Valley of Ladders. On Sunday it was further revealed that Mr Stephen Bayley promises "a forest of virtual heads", an exhibit explaining the future meaning of body, mind, and soul (er, what?), some stuff borrowed from the British Museum, big magnets, and a mascot designed by Damien Hirst to symbolise the new Britain. A very large model pickled cow, perhaps, with giant walk-through spongiform brain.

Sorry, sorry. Any exhibition sounds ridiculous in preview: Simon Jenkins is quite right to quote Burke on the "presumptuous judgment of the ignorant", and unlike the querulous Mr Kaufman I am cheerfully content to stay ignorant until opening day. The reason for my sudden Christmas benevolence towards the Big Bubble has nothing to do with these tantalising glimpses of its contents. It is all in one obvious but vital statement Simon Jenkins makes about the displays. "Above all," he wrote, "they must be ready on time."

The dome is both about time and about a race against time.

Suddenly I toss up my hat, punch the air and say "Yes!" I suddenly see the pleasure of the Millennium Dome. It has to be ready on time, or it is pointless. Even if, as evil gossips say, it is manned by doubters and squabblers it has a huge asset — the most invigorating, inspiring asset of all, the one sure guarantee of teamwork and decisiveness and excitement. It has an unbreakable deadline. If they don't finish on time they might as well never have started. The show must go on. There is no alternative.

And at this season we can all raise a glass to that and wish the Domies luck. We can sympathise. We know how it is with big deadlines. Christmas Day is rolling towards us, and those who mark it want to mark it well. We want the food right, the presents right, the beds made, wine muddled, the decorations up, the cards sent, the visits accomplished. We want everything swept and garnished.

But there will be no point in any of it if we miss the deadline. You can't put off Christmas Day, or buy crackers when there's nobody left to pull them with. There is no point getting the guest room perfect when the guests have been and gone, or filling stockings two days after the children have found them empty. So in these last hectic days, we Christmas-makers hurdle from shop to stove to freezer. Seltzer in our hair and pine-needles in our underwear, as bent on meeting our immutable deadline as any Dome designer.

And what effect does this have? Apart, that is, from holly lacerations caused by bringing down a variegated wreath on your head with a wildly flourished roll of wrapping-paper, and the hernia caused by lunging to save the tree when the dog knocks it over in its attempts to escape having a pair of polystyrene antlers fixed to its head?

I will tell you. This stress, this need

to finish, is the fastest teacher of efficiency there is. The glorious thing which a real, immovable deadline does is to improve your skills in management. There is no need for droning lecturers to tell you about prioritisation or time-management: you do it for very survival. Sluggards become lively, and the chronically indecisive make snap decisions.

Say you are a working woman with Christmas duties atop the rest: well, the house plainly cannot be both swept and garnished in the time, so you just garnish like mad and trust

(as in their way, the Domestics must) that dinsel overhead distracts from crunched-up pinecones and mince pies underfoot. You light candles and turn the lights off to camouflage dust, toss ivy over unwired tangle of

bleedcloths and spike the muddled web of censorious relatives. You give up the idea of wrapping presents tidily because there are 85 presents to wrap, counting stockings: you scrouch and twist instead. You glance at the clock and the calendar and decide that while indeed a home-made stuffing and Delia Smith cranberry confit would be nice, a packet and a jar will hit the deadline.

If, like me, the approach of the sacred day involves turning your study back into the guest bedroom but you are still hammering the computer as the guest is hammering at the door, you leap up, unfold the Z-bed, hurl a festively red sheet over the chaos of the desk (possibly topping it with holly for luck) and feign a bright welcoming smile. Then, with the artifice of despair, you offer to put on a nice video for the said guest so you can nip into their room and type on surreptitiously under the sheet.

My husband takes an even more audacious line: when there is some household project looming he always starts it three weeks before Christmas so that it "has" to be finished on time. One year he ripped strands of old wallpaper off, making the house so

repulsive that he had to repaper it or die of shame. This year he knocked a huge hole in the wall of the only room big enough to seat 14 Christmas diners and filled it with evil brick-rubble. It had to be sorted out, so it has been. Just. Or should be, by tonight.

Any rush, any chaos, any impossible striving is justified by a deadline. For journalists, but also for anybody who regularly fulfils non-negotiable orders or gets on stage for the first time, an unmissable deadline is both stimulus and release. It even enjoins a certain humility. If you don't get the article right by six, or the act together by curtain-up, there is nothing more you can do. Either it goes in imperfect or not at all. In handing it over, you admit both your effort and your fallibility.

The Dome team will have to do that come 2000 and that alone gives them a certain dignity. The thing cannot be unfinished, so it must be pulled together somehow. Like Christmas.

There should be more of these deadlines in public life. Think of all the things which consensus says should be done: in education, in the penal and judicial systems, in the infrastructure and environment and the protection of children in care. But there are no deadlines, no magical millennial dates to meet, so everything is flabby.

We make excuses, talk ourselves into pompous inertia, set up public inquiries and royal commissions, wait months and years for their conclusions and then put those to parliamentary committees and working parties so we can debate them and push them around a bit and get nothing much done at all. Sometimes we create artificial deadlines by the ridiculous modern management tic of "target-setting", knowing all the time that the targets and goalposts can be moved and cheated freely, and undoubtedly will be by the time the next election comes round, everything stops and changes, and we can start doing nothing all over again.

No: from a heap of unwrapped presents beneath a rickety tree, I salute that great force for good: the deadline. I wish all who meet it, in however ramshackle a manner, a merry Christmas.

Or at least, a more or less complete one.

Libby Purves

information at the Scottish Office after "difficulties" with Donald Dewar, has written a vitriolic attack on the powers that be in today's *Parliamentary Review* magazine. "Slick, pretentious, cannot compensate for an absence of policy. 'Good news' gimmicks will not distract the media or the electorate for long," she whines. "PR puffery is no substitute for truth." But after many years working in Whitehall, does the good Ms Drummond know the difference?

● RATHER than calling in an expert to determine the identity of



the much-publicised ghost haunting Peerhouse, perhaps the Cambridge dons should look no further than the undergraduates who used to commandeer the Combination Room for their dining clubs. "We were all banned from having dinners there after the Cocoa Tree Club met there last year and smashed a few plates," says a junior mortar-board. "Some of the chaps decided to upset the dons by pretending it was haunted."

Slip up

THE Prince of Wales's new year jaunt to Klosters with his sons — aimed at raising the morale of the young princes — has already hit a mogul: his favourite ski instructor, Bruno Sprechler, has been put in hospital with a knee injury.

Sprechler, 42 — a jovial, bearded sort of chap — has been as regular a feature of the Prince's skiing holidays as a fondue. The instructor was with the Prince during the avalanche in 1988 which killed his friend, Major Hugh Lindsay. Sprechler could be out of action for at least two seasons after tearing several knee ligaments. "I was looking forward to skiing with Princes William and Harry so as to bring a little joy back to their lives after the tragic death of their mother," winced Sprechler from his hospital bed in

Davos. By way of consolation, he received a bouquet of flowers from his distinctly off-piste chum, the Duchess of York.



Helena: common touch

● ENDEARINGLY, Helena Bonham Carter insists she is rather below stairs. "Just because my great-grandfather was Prime Minister, everyone wrongly assumes I am irredeemably posh," she told me yesterday, as critics murmur approval for her latest effort, *The Wings of the Dove*. "All PMs get gongs. Blair certainly will and he's not posh."

JASPER GERARD

Why I believe in Jacob

David Selbourne defends his mystery manuscript

Recently I translated the manuscript of a merchant, Jacob of Ancona, who set sail for the East in 1270 and arrived in China a year before Marco Polo. But since the owner of the manuscript will permit no further access to the work lest his anonymity be breached, the appearance of my translation *The City of Light* has been a turbulent event.

The book has been greeted by some as a hoax, a political satire worthy of a Montesquieu or a Swift, even a plot by the Left to discredit me. Folly and error of judgment have marked the reviews.

That the book is also a Jewish work of piety, containing an account of historic Jewish tribulation and defiance as well as an exhortation of Christian "idolatry", has, for whatever reason, barely been mentioned. Yet if there were still a Vatican Index, it would surely be placed on it.

The manuscript's owner — who is himself not Jewish and not an inhabitant of Urbino, where I live — first approached me about it in 1990. Why me? Because my interest in Judaism, including the history of medieval Jewry in Italy, was known to him, and because I was not Italian, yet within reach. Only those familiar with Italian *mores* could understand the mistrust, often justified, in which Italians hold one another, while Italian scholarship is a byword for bad faith, corruption, and indolence. By contrast, the Englishman will generally be considered, rightly or wrongly, as trustworthy in keeping a pledge, as non-materialistic and as hardworking.

As to the essential authenticity of the Ancona manuscript — pending access to it by others better qualified than I — and the genuine purposes of its owner in wanting its contents translated into English, I have not been in doubt. I worked on it intermittently for several years at the owner's house, never permitted to take it from his premises, nor to take samples or photographs of it, on the (mistaken) grounds that it would lead to the provenance of the manuscript and the present owner's identity becoming known to all.

A considerable amount, perhaps a fifth or sixth of the original, largely Tuscan, Italian — there are also Hebrew exclamations, enormia to God and Talmudic citations — was incorporated in my notes and translation as I went along. These were words, idiomatic phrases, proper names and philosophical terms which I wished to study further in lexicons and works of reference. I incorporated most of these words and phrases into the text of my translation, placing them in square brackets. The British publishers, Little, Brown, struck werm out in the editing process, but they had been provided as an earnest, in the interim, of the authenticity of the text. A very small proportion of them remains in the notes. No reviewer, so far as I recall, has remarked on them.

Instead, cabal-like pressures, originating in American academia, have been exerted against Little, Brown in America, the holders of subsidiary rights in my translation. A kind of scholarly iatwa has been pronounced against it, compromising freedom of publication (and intellectual freedom) in the very land of the free. The British publishers are made of sterner stuff, as are other publishers worldwide, whose translators are hard at work on the text.

Yet, in England also, risky libels about a "fake" have been spread: scholarship has pronounced upon the supposed anachronism of a single word, the manuscript has been described as "too long". I have been informed from the pulpits of academia that, although Jacob of Ancona categorically mentions them, there were no wheeled carriages in the great city of Zaitun (Quanzhou) which he visited, no saffron, no opium — although medieval Chinese pharmacopoeias mention it — and even no sex or sexual aberration, although Jacob gives an account of both. I have been unblushingly told, too, in a broadcast exchange with an English critic, that the Chinese of 13th-century Zaitun would have had "great difficulty" in communicating with each other in oral speech, so that the moral and political debates which Jacob describes could not have taken place — a proposition laughed to scorn by Chinese scholars.

That the conditions under which I worked on the translation would cause difficulty I anticipated. But I did not expect that mere opinion and supposition would be presented as counter-facts, nor the false assumption that what today's academics do not know — or did not know until they read the Ancona manuscript — could not be knowledge. Thus far, only the pointing out of one serious typographical error about a Jewish fast will be of service for future editions.

In sum, Jacob's tale, like Marco Polo's, stands, legitimate and spurious doubts notwithstanding. However assailed, the Ancona argosy sails on, to the discomfort of critics and the delight of readers. Like Marco Polo, Jacob of Ancona lives.

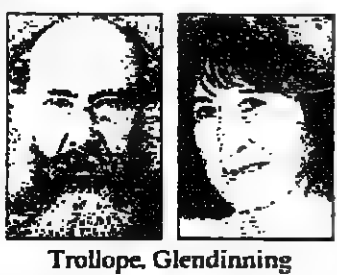
The author is the translator of Jacob of Ancona's *The City of Light*, Little, Brown.

Old square

ANTHONY TROLLOPE. I can reveal, was a Freemason. The author, who put Barshearth on the literary map and consorted John Major during some of the worst moments of his premiership, joined the secret society in the early 1840s. Experts on Trollope have been unaware of his membership. But my revelation confirms the suspicions of most Masons, who have for many years considered him one of theirs because of his use of ritual phrases in his books. Trollope's membership came to light during a recent sale at Sotheby's of his papers. These included three Masonic certificates, one signed by the Duke of Leinster, issued to him by the Grand Lodge in Dublin between 1842 and 1846. Also on sale was what is believed to be Trollope's Masonic apron.

The author had been transferred to Ireland in 1841 as a rather lowly Post Office clerk, and Victoria Glendinning, who has written a famous biography, thinks he may have signed up as a means of getting to know people. "Others join nightclubs or gyms," she says. "Perhaps it was a form of networking." John Letts, chairman of the Trollope Society, concurs: "He was making a rather earnest effort to establish himself as a respectable citizen and escape what he called his *hobbs le de hoy* past, in other words being a slob."

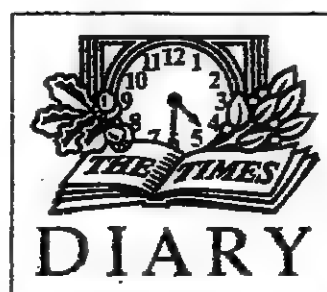
Exhaustive research into Trollope's life has failed to reveal his Masonic past because, like a good



Trollope, Glendinning

member, he made no reference to the group in his correspondence or private letters. But he did hint at it in his writing, employing phrases such as "third degree", "acting on the level" and "being square". I shall now browse my battered *Bartholomew Towers* or *Phineas Finn* with added interest.

● FILM and tourism minister Tom Clarke is curiously camera shy. On a bracing visit to Barshearth's legendary *Elvcar* Heritage



Centre, the minister became bristly when a snapper attempted to immortalise the moment. A haughty handler stepped in to shoo the wretch away. The explanation: "Please can you not take photos while he is talking. It'll confuse him," revealed a ministerial aid. Let's hope Clarke does not find his dual portfolio equally problematic.

Loud mouths

WHEN they worked as government information officers, they kept their mouths shut as much as possible. After losing their jobs, they cannot keep quiet. Liz Drummond is the latest of at least six victims of a Labour-inspired purge and, like some of her predecessors, has vented her spleen publicly. Drummond, who quit as head of



SELECTIVE CULL

The past and future of the British beef industry

It was an unfortunate but entirely apt reflection on the BSE affair that Jack Cunningham's statement to the House of Commons yesterday should be delayed by an inexplicable technical malfunction. The same combination of error and uncertainty has been present throughout this fiasco. The Minister for Agriculture recovered — rather better than the beef industry — to offer a brief statement that was wide-ranging and broadly persuasive. His department has hardly been in the forefront of truly open government and the belated arrival of the searchlight of scrutiny, under the charge of Lord Justice Phillips, must be welcomed.

The case for a searching inquiry — but not a partisan kangaroo court — is powerful. The whole BSE melodrama has been an extraordinary and exceptionally expensive story. The unfortunate truth is that neither the events themselves nor the expense have reached their conclusion. It might be argued that the allocation of blame for the BSE crisis is either impractical or irrelevant. However, the restoration of confidence (or not) in the beef industry requires much firmer responses to questions that have been asked but rarely answered. Without a credible investigation from an independent source, baseless rumour will displace fact and partial interpretation eclipse dispassionate analysis.

There would, at this stage, seem to be three candidates for public contempt. The industry itself which — according to some — engaged in potentially poisonous practices in the 1980s and then demanded vast public compensation in the 1990s. The second candidate is the Ministry of Agriculture (MAFF) which, according to its substantial company of critics, has behaved consistently as if its initials stood for More Aid Fast to Farmers. Finally, there are the scientists who, according to certain politicians, operated on an exceptionally flexible concept of

certainly. All or none of these institutions might be deemed responsible. It is in the interest of all concerned to clear the air.

The most significant aspect of the Cunningham statement may be that about which he was most deliberately ambiguous. The Minister asserted that restructuring of the industry was "vital" and that it was essential for UK producers to presume that major changes were inevitable. This should be read as an acknowledgement that the export ban on British beef will not be lifted for some years to come. Furthermore, it can be calculated, Dr Cunningham does not think that consumer confidence will return much faster. This is not a Ministry message which will be popular with rural communities. That does not mean it is unrealistic.

The Opposition sought to place attention on the financial scheme that Dr Cunningham outlined for hill farmers. This will consist of £60 million offered to the beef sector from European Union funds. Another £25 million will be made available in 1998 via an increase in the Hill Livestock Compensatory Allowance. Dr Cunningham stresses that this allowance was "exceptional and one-off". The farmers will doubtless note that more could have been made available from EU coffers.

It is indicative of this whole affair that two, utterly different, reactions may be felt in the country to this compensation package. Those who believe that farmers chose to engage in dubious feeding practices in the 1980s will be outraged that one penny has been paid from the public purse. Others who have concluded that the health scare has been fuelled by hype will think that Dr Cunningham has been parsimonious. There cannot be a convincing answer to the question of financial claim until the question of factual blame is settled. We can only hope that the Phillips inquiry is more effective and timely than every other aspect of this saga.

OFF THE GROUND

The Eurofighter now awaits construction

After years of uncertainty and squabbling, the defence ministers of Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain yesterday committed their governments to the construction and purchase of Eurofighter, the £40 billion aircraft that will form the backbone of European defence until well into the next millennium. Their signature in Bonn of a binding agreement guarantees up to 80,000 jobs in Britain, ensures that European defence industries remain at the forefront of technological innovation, and gives the manufacturers a product that will, over time, reap billions of pounds in export orders. Yet so chequered has been the history of this ambitious project that few can now believe that the crises of the past decade are over. Eurofighter looked stillborn at least three times: its birth will be a marvel not only of engineering but of political will.

British industry will welcome the final go-ahead for the fighter without reservations. With a 38 per cent stake in the project, Britain will manufacture many of the most sophisticated components, including the cockpit, the front canard wings, part of the main wings, the new EJ200 engines and much of the avionics, including the advanced ECR90 radar. Almost all the leading engineering and avionics companies will have a share of the work, ensuring their global competitive edge and the maintenance of a skilled workforce. Parts of the country will have jobs guaranteed for years to come, especially in Lancashire, Bristol and Derby. Britain will continue to be a centre of engineering excellence.

These arguments were long rehearsed in the wrangling among the four producing nations, especially when Germany was straining to pull out of the project. Britain, playing on Germany's European commitment, insisted that unless the project went

ahead, America's technological lead would become unassailable. It argued that the fighter was the single greatest co-operative project making a reality of the European Union's dream of pooling its industrial muscle and interchanging training.

None of this, however, could stand beside the determining question: was the fighter really needed? Conceived in 1983 at the height of the Cold War, with development getting underway in 1988, Eurofighter was almost an early casualty of the euphoria that overtook the West after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. The Germans, especially, insisted there was no longer a need for a plane to challenge the best of the Soviet air force. They considered its avionics, specifications and armaments too heavy, expensive and sophisticated for what they believed would, in future, be the low-level threats to Western security. Volker Rühle, the German Defence Minister, was determined to cancel the project, or, at best, change the Eurofighter into a cheaper and lighter plane. Eventually, the Germans were convinced, partly by the experience of the Gulf War, that such arguments were naive. Europe needs up-to-date defence no less in time of peace than at the height of global ideological conflict. With the Cold War over, Europe could, in theory, have bought cheap Russian MiG29s, but spares would have presented an insurmountable obstacle — let alone the politics of relying on Moscow. The only real alternative was the American F22. But at double the cost, this would not provide commensurate extra security. Like Concorde and Airbus, other multinational aviation projects that appeared doomed during development, Eurofighter is both justified in its mission and of immense consequence to the competitiveness and innovation of Western defence. It has now, finally, taken off.

HO, HO, HI

Americans embrace the British Christmas

British exports may have had a difficult year in America, but there are some UK products which have clambered over the EU's tariff barriers to run riot through stateside shopping malls. While British mums have scored high streets for Tellytubbies, American mums have tramped main streets for another sweet yet cloying celebration of the full stomach — the traditional Christmas pudding. For a nation which has come to regard skimmed milk in the decaf as an unthinkable decadent way in which to round off a dinner of mixed leaves and skinless chicken breast, the emergence of Mrs Beeton's suet cannonball as the new pudding of choice is as culturally significant as any of this year's social changes.

A country which had come to regard siltion as the only acceptable way of adding inches to the figure is learning to loosen its belt for the season of goodwill. Purveyors of traditional English fayre are delighted at the rejection of body fascism. This Christmas-tide there is much joy in the kingdom of Harrods over the thinies who repent. The Treasury too, will be delighted — welcoming the boost to foreign earnings.

Eggy pudding is, however, not the only traditional trapping of the British Yule to win new friends abroad. The leading importer of transatlantic bibelots is Neiman-Marcus, the upscale department store where the assistants responded to Imran Khan's

concerns about the Kashmir conflict by advising his wife to team the carigan with a silk scarf. The biggest hit this season has not, however, been anything tight in the new brown, black or grey but something with an even shorter post-purchase life than a New York cocktail dress — the Christmas cracker.

The appeal of crackers, the paper ones that is, was hindered initially by the common language which divides our two great nations. American customers were, apparently, slow to see the attraction of pulling at a dry biscuit to celebrate the festive season. The glorious extravagance, however, of investing in a Christmas zipperry which could not be packed away in the goodie trunk for subsequent re-use eventually worked its magic on a country of conspicuous consumers. Pulling on a cracker has become an American declaration of financial independence.

It is fitting that preparations for this Christmas should prove the Congressional Speaker Newt Gingrich right in his assertion that the Atlantic was easier to cross than the English Channel. Although many apparently British Christmas traditions are German inventions introduced by Prince Albert the character of the season really owes more to Dickens and Disney than Deutschland. The special relationship is alive and well, paper hats on the partners' heads and plum duff on the table.

Resolving Labour economic conflicts

From Mr Mike Faulkes

Sir, As a lifelong Conservative I applaud new Labour's determination to keep government expenditure within strict limits. We have a strong economy but high interest rates directed at avoiding inflation. The consequent high pound damages exports.

Isn't there another way of balancing these conflicts? A reduction in interest rates could be mirrored by an increase in taxation which would leave the average family no worse off. This would help exports, increase government income and reduce its expenditure on servicing the national debt. The result would be to make exports stronger and enable the Government to improve expenditure on vital services or restate repaying the national debt, or a judicious combination of the two.

The Government did give a manifesto undertaking not to increase taxes. It has already broken this several times. If the proposed increase was clearly a package leading to reduced mortgage repayments it should be within the wit of the Government to explain this to the electorate. It presumably has sufficient influence over the Bank concerning interest rates. At present it is wringing its hands and doing little positive in the economic field.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE FAULKES,
171 Kidmore Road,
Caversham, Reading RG4 7NN.
December 19.

Welfare changes

From Mr Frederik Dean

Sir, I would like to commend the Government on its programme of welfare reform (letters, December 9, 13, 17, 18). As the steward of this nation's taxpayers' money it must be wise in spending limited resources.

It is good and proper that this country has a system which helps those who cannot help themselves. I would, however, like to suggest that there are insufficient funds available to distribute to those who will not help themselves.

Spending priorities will have to be made. It is time individual responsibility was again seen as a key to a stable, caring society. Without it, "rights" should not be forthcoming to anyone who claims them.

Yours sincerely,
FREDERIK DEAN,
36 Normanhurst Avenue,
Bournemouth BH8 9NP.
fjd@dogfaden.prestel.co.uk
December 19.

Cold War memories

From Mrs Caroline Scallon

Sir, Richard Beeston, your correspondent in Moscow, must be too young to remember the temperatures in that city at the end of 1978 (weather reports, December 17, 18). They too were the lowest for the preceding century. Mr Beeston's parents should remember, as they were there at the time (with *The Daily Telegraph*), as were we (with Barclays Bank).

Thermometers in Moscow plunged to -40C. We watched the guards at Lenin's tomb changing every 15 minutes one night, in spite of the heating pads under their feet; garage-less cars had their engines turned over every 15 minutes all night and most of the day; and we filled our screen washers with vodka, which did not freeze; humans could stand being outside for only 10 to 15 minutes at a time before returning to their overheated apartments and a warming tot of brandy. Dacha parties arranged for the festive season had to be cancelled.

Democracy, it seems, does not have a monopoly on lowest recorded temperatures; or perhaps these figures were suppressed under the communist regime?

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE SCALLON,
28 Grange Road, SW13 9RE.
December 18.

Cold snipe

From Mr J. G. Wishart

Sir, Mr Peter Birnie (letter today) is right: southerners, confronted by snow, become a race of wimps.

When I lived in Maryland, three inches of snow were required before schools and military bases closed. In Alabama, a heavy frost sufficed.

Yours faithfully,
J. G. WISHART,
Milton House,
Milton of Balgonie,
Glenrothes KY7 6PX.
December 19.

A matter of trust

From Mr Ben Noble

Sir, Having listened to the Prime Minister (report, December 18) and read the Paymaster General's statements (report, December 15) on the question of offshore trusts, and not understanding what these are about, can I ask them what the purpose of these trusts is, apart from avoidance of UK tax?

Sincerely,
BEN NOBLE,
25 Windermere Avenue, Hawcoot,
Barrow-in-Furness LA14 4LN.
December 19.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0471-782 5000

'Hollow gestures' of Irish President

From Mr Robin Bury

Sir, The fact that our new, staunchly Catholic President, Mary McAleese, has taken Holy Communion in the Church of Ireland cathedral in Dublin (News in brief, December 9) struck me, as a member of that Church, as being an act of theatre rather than solemn worship. Presumably her motive was to build another of those bridges she talks about to Protestants in Ireland.

However, the President knows full well that in the Republic of Ireland relations between Protestants and Catholics are good, so this sort of gesture is a hollow one. All it has achieved is to arouse the wrath of some of her own church leaders and divided Catholics on this island.

Perhaps the gesture was intended more for Unionists in Northern Ireland. If so, it was negated by the President's visit to West Belfast on December 5, when she failed to meet Joe Hendron, the former representative of the SDLP, the Catholic constitutional party. Instead, she met with the extreme nationalist, Gerry Adams, whose movement (in the words of

your leading article of December 12) uses violence "not to secure freedom and democracy but to stifle it".

Unionists are pragmatic people and judge people by their acts, not their words. On this basis, they know Mary McAleese as a radical nationalist, and dismiss her silly talk of her "love" for them. People in Ireland want lasting peace and stability. They realise that if Mr Hume and Mr Trimble were left to make terms, a settlement would be reached in a matter of days.

Had Mrs McAleese been creative enough to wear a poppy during her inauguration ceremony on Armistice Day to commemorate the many Irish dead in two world wars — she refused to do this (report, November 12) — she would have given out a signal that she disapproves of the extreme republicans who are successfully setting the agenda today, both in London and Dublin. And that would have shown true leadership.

Yours sincerely,
ROBIN BURY,
11 Firgrove,
Military Road, Killiney, Co Dublin.
December 15.

Guardsmen in prison

From Major-General Murray Naylor

Sir, The involvement of Martin Bell, MP, in the campaign to highlight the cases of Scots Guardsmen Fisher and Wright, together with your report and leader today, make it clear that their position is one which must be considered again by Ministers on the grounds of natural justice.

Martin Bell knows the circumstances which soldiers have had to face on the streets of Northern Ireland since 1969 and his judgment and experience in these matters should be heeded.

I visited Jim Fisher and Mark Wright on December 16 in Maghaberry prison in Northern Ireland, where they will be spending their sixth Christmas for a tragic mistake made while they were discharging the operational policy of the UK Government.

They are genuinely remorseful for what happened and look forward to returning to their regiment, but are bewildered by their apparently different treatment from the IRA prisoners released yesterday for Christmas.

It is not good enough for the cases of Fisher and Wright to be treated without reference to their human rights. At this time of peace and goodwill for all men perhaps a gesture of reconciliation is appropriate for all those

who have become victims of the conflict in Northern Ireland, not just those with powerful advocates to speak for them.

Yours etc,
MURRAY NAYLOR
(Chairman of the Guardsmen
Fisher and Wright Release Group),
PO Box 16331, London SW16 6ZJ.
December 19.

From Group Captain P. W. Johnson

Sir, Your leader today draws attention to the anomaly of justice which has allowed the release for a Christmas break with their families of men whose crimes against humanity were terrible and deliberate, but has denied such fleeting liberty to two loyal British soldiers incarcerated in the same prison for an action when they were under orders in defence of the Queen's peace.

One of the main planks of British policy now is the theme of "open government".

Should we not therefore know exactly where the responsibility for ordering and denying such releases lies?

Yours faithfully,
P. W. JOHNSON,
23 Albany Park,
Guildford GU5 9BB.
December 19.

Turkey and Cyprus

From the Reverend A. Graham Helliwell

Sir, I would not wish to devalue the Reconciliation Walk from Cologne to Jerusalem which marked the 900th anniversary of the First Crusade (letter, December 18). Roger Foster links it with Turkey's application to join the EU — a very different matter.

Had the walkers diverted through Diyarbakir they would have found the air full of voices about fresh atrocities — not all one-sided, it is true — for which the Turkish Government carries a heavy responsibility.

The 30 million Kurdish people are effectively under military rule. Their culture is still repressed and their civil rights are denied. Arrests and torture are everyday occurrences. MPs are imprisoned and journalists murdered. Hundreds of villages have been bombed and razed. Over 12,000 people have died.

Our ears may be tuned to the distant wrongs of history but there is fresh blood crying out to be heard. Is it surprising that Europe is "equivocal"?

Would European membership tip the balance towards true democracy

or must human rights first prevail? There is work to be done here for justice as well as reconciliation.

Yours sincerely,
GRAHAM HELLIWELL,
Monmouth End,
Marden, Hereford HR1 3EZ.

From Mr Aziz Gulbahar

Sir, Mr Tony Miltides (letter, December 18) is right in his belief that Cyprus's membership of the EU will be a new factor in the 30-year-old stalemate.

The unilateral Greek Cypriot application has been the single most important factor that will lead to the permanent division of the island: the Greek Cypriots' wish of Enosis (union with Greece) being achieved after decades of trying and the Turkish Cypriots seeking integration with Turkey, since it is clear the EU wants neither of the two parties.

Yours faithfully,
AZIZ GULBAHAR
(Chairman, Political Committee),
Council of Turkish Cypriot
Associations (UK),
PO Box 12759, London E8 1PP.
December 18.

Jacob of Ancona

From Professor John Larnier

Sir, Reading Dr David Abulafia's and Ms Kay Lacey's letters (December 12) on David Selbourne's *The City of Light* (letter, December 5), I could not help wondering whether whoever produced the manuscript on which it is said to be based wasn't playing a game of "See how many mistakes you can spot". Here are two I particularly enjoyed.

Sailing the Adriatic in 1270, the narrator, "Jacob of Ancona", says how fast his galley sailed — "we made wings of our oars" — thus anticipating one of Dante's most vivid metaphors (*Inferno*, xvi, 125), first written down some forty to fifty years later.

Then, from Acre, the capital of the

Crusader kingdom, he is allowed to take a caravan to Damascus with which at that time (though Jacob is oblivious of it all) the kingdom was at war.

But more amusing than the absolute impossibilities are the general absurdities. Among these my own favourite is the way Jacob hires a pilot at Ancona to guide him through the China seas — rather like taking a London taxi-driver with you to help get around Edinburgh.

Perhaps the publishers, Little, Brown and Company, could market *The City of Light* here by offering a prize to whoever can identify the most and best of these.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LARNIER,
1 Forrest Road, Stirling FK8 1UH.

Unsporting abuse

From Mrs Elizabeth Marchal

Sir, School pupils who shout abuse at sporting opposition (report, December 13) should not be condemned: they have obviously set their sights on serving their country as MPs and are merely practising.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH MARCHAL,
33 Croft Way, Sevenoaks TN13 2JU.
December 13.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Welsh assembly

From Mr Ray Kingdon

Sir, I voted "Yes" for a Welsh assembly believing that it would be based in the capital, Cardiff, and so did thousands of others who had read promotional material. At no time were the Welsh electorate given information to the contrary.

Any move now by the Secretary of State for Wales to break this link and to house the assembly elsewhere may surely be viewed as misrepresentation.

Yours etc,
RAY KINGDON,
77 Heathway, Cardiff CF4 4JS.
ray@jyspel.demon.co.uk

Messiah message raises the spirits

From Dr Bill Smith

Sir, Mr Anthony Fry is rightly concerned (letter, December 20) about the confusion over whether to sit or stand during the Hallelujah Chorus. However, there is a spiritual significance which helps to explain this tradition.

Handel's *Messiah* traces the story of Jesus from his birth through his earthly ministry, his Crucifixion, and his Resurrection. The Hallelujah Chorus represents the disciples' final understanding of the reality of his Resurrection. It is natural that they should want to rise to their feet to acclaim this wonderful revelation. No doubt this, too, is how George II felt during the first performance of this moving work.

There is a yet deeper significance: the *Messiah* continues with our own resurrection: "The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible" (1 Corinthians xv, 52). The entire audience of the Albert Hall, or wherever, rising for the Hallelujah Chorus provides a brief foretaste of how at the last day we shall all rise up "to meet the Lord in the air" (1 Thessalonians iv, 17).

Yours etc,
BILL SMITH,
25 Sidelands Road,
Downend, Bristol BS16 2TS.
bill.smith@bristol.ac.uk
December 22.

Reindeer recruit

From the Reverend Julian Sullivan

Sir, A cursory reading of an alternative text, *The Night before Christmas*, by Clement C. Moore, appears to confirm the view of Mr A. H. Davis (letter, December 17) that the employment of Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer was indeed temporary.

On the night in question, visibility was excellent ("The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow, gave the lustre of midday to objects below ..."). St Nick favoured eight reindeer in a 2-2-2 formation, calling them by name: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen.

On a clear night, Rudolph's special attribute would have been redundant, accounting for his omission from the squad. The inescapable conclusion is surely that Rudolph is kept in reserve for hazardous weather conditions.

Happy Christmas to all.
Yours faithfully,
JULIAN SULLIVAN,
St Mary's Vicarage,
42 Charlotte Road, Sheffield S1 4TL.
juliansullivan@compuserve.com

From Mr A. D. Peever

Sir, While Mr Davis is correct in asserting that Santa's sleigh was not drawn by red-nosed reindeer he is clearly mistaken in believing that Rudolph was only a one-night temp. In the song it is stated that "all of the other reindeer ... wouldn't let poor Rudolph join in any reindeer games". If Rudolph was so unfairly excluded from the extracurricular activities of the said reindeer then surely this proves that he was indeed regularly employed by Santa (at least on a seasonal basis).

Yours faithfully,
ALAN PEEVER,
Box 51775, Nairobi, Kenya.

Heard but not seen

From Colonel David Whitaker

Sir, There is not much point in debating when you should tell your children the whole truth about Father Christmas (letters, December 20); they will discover it in their own time in a variety of ways. I well remember my son when he was about six telling me that he had not been able to see Father Christmas filling his stocking because his bedroom had been too dark, but that he had heard what he said when he snubbed his toes on a bedpost.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID WHITAKER,
The Dover House, Chawton,
Nr Alton, GU34 1SB.

Heavenly gift

From Mrs Anne Middleton

Sir, Peterborough's bargain hunters (letter, December 22) should count themselves lucky it is only the price of their Holy Family crib scene that has been reduced. Imagine the shock awaiting Christmas shoppers a few years ago in Heddon, Northumberland, where the reduction in a charity shop was far more drastic: "Nativity set £8. Baby missing."

Yours faithfully,
ANNE MIDDLETON,
8 Little Cloister,
Westminster Abbey, SW1P 3PL.
December 22.

Shocking filler

From Mr Philip J. Gregg

Sir, Mr Alasdair Maclean (letter, December 20) asks where the mouse in the traditional Christmas stocking came from. The same place as the mouse in the traditional tin of baked beans (report, December 19)?

Yours faithfully,
P. J. GREGG,
32 Lancaster Road, Rugby CV21 2QW.
December 20.

OBITUARIES

THE MARQUESS OF HERTFORD

The 8th Marquess of Hertford died yesterday aged 67 after a brain tumour. He was born on March 29, 1930.

Like many aristocrats of his generation, the 8th Marquess of Hertford dedicated his life to his corner of British history: Ragley Hall at Alcester in Warwickshire. As his wife said, "Ragley Hall is a life sentence."

Ragley is a fine Palladian house built in the 1680s, noted especially for James Gibbs's 70ft Great Hall. Although he had to sell parts of an estate that originally included 8,000 acres of prime farmland, the 8th Marquess managed to pass on the house as an independent concern. "My faith and love" (as the family motto urges) — but only just. The house very nearly became one more victim of the inheritance-tax trap which stripped many families of the means to maintain their properties. In a letter to *The Times*, the marquess once protested at the prevailing postwar antipathy to the idea of passing on an inheritance for one's children to improve: "I do not understand, and I deeply resent, the fact that no Conservative politician now attempts to defend the interests of the next generation."

Hugh Edward Conway Seymour was the son of Brigadier-General Lord Henry Charles Seymour, the second son of the 6th Marquess. His mother was Lady Helen Frances Grosvenor, daughter of the Duke of Westminster.

After Eton and the Grenadier Guards, he succeeded his uncle in 1940, and found that he had inherited a costly asset. Ragley Hall has 80, or 100, or 115 rooms — depending whom you believe — and throughout the war it was used as a hospital. The family was confined to small quarters, where Lady Helen kept a bathful of hand-grenades as a last resort against invading Germans. As a result, during the 1950s the marquess spent a great deal of time repairing the fabric of the house, which had not been fully occupied since 1912.

In 1956 he married the Countess Louise de Caraman Chimay, and they set about putting the house in order so as to open it to the public (initially at half-a-crown a time). They found gorgeous drapery rotting on the walls and beautiful furniture stacked in back rooms. Also in need of upkeep were 24 acres of garden, a maze, a park with a cricket pitch and a lake, a nature trail and an adventure world. The marquess wrote a guidebook himself, and the Hall opened to the public in the summer of 1958. So beguiling are the house and its setting that 40,000 people visited in the first few months, even though the peacocks would eat the pinks.

Anxious that this new source of income be maintained, Lord Hertford began looking for new attractions. In France on honeymoon he and his wife had been impressed with a son at Lumière display, and this was duly tried at Ragley, with a commentary spoken by Michael Redgrave. Horse trials and water-skiing dis-



plays were held on the estate, and later attractions at the house were to include a display of crowns and jewels labelled as "authentic replicas".

The marquess's principal interest for much of his life was necessarily in managing the estate, but he also enjoyed some other ancestral perks. One of his forebears had bought the 13th-century Conway Castle from Charles I, and when the castle was subsequently rented in the 19th century it was on condition that the Marquess of Hertford be given "a dish of fish... whenever he passes through the town". Accordingly, Lord Hertford made a point of passing through, and was presented with a 5lb salmon by the mayor.

Despite the enormous popularity of country-house visiting, by the mid-1960s he was "gradually coming round" to offering the family seat to the National Trust. But then in June 1964 he dropped a bombshell. "Ragley Hall to be demolished," reported *The Times*. "It is a dreadful decision, but a final one. The house will remain open until the end of September. During the winter preparations will begin to pull it down and build a smaller house." At the time the house would have needed little pulling: it was all

but falling down. The marquess had spent more than £100,000 on it in the previous few years, so depleting the family fortunes. Investments, land, family silver and even some of his wife's jewellery had been sold to keep the house going. The National Trust said that it would only take the house if it came with a lump sum, which the family simply did not have. "We have failed," said the marquess. "If we go on we shall in time be ruined. At the end of my life I would hand to my son a large, beautiful house with no money or land to support it. I think that would be wrong."

Fortunately, the outcry had an upshot. The Historic Buildings Council authorised grants of £18,000, which were followed by further public money, and the marquess was persuaded that the cause was not lost. In the spirit of his ancestors, he commissioned a *trompe l'oeil* mural for the south staircase from Graham Rust, the heir (to put it politely) of the artist and mural-painter Rex Whistler. Called *The Temptation*, and suggested by the Palladian Villa Massera at Vicenza, the mural took 14 years in all (1969-83), and was said to be the largest in England. It contains 29 friends and members of the family,

including the UFO-spotter Lady Buchanan-Jardine, who points at the sky but fails to interest even a frescoed spaniel. Lord Hertford himself appears twice, once as naked Neptune sitting in a large shell. The odd-job man who walked in while he was posing was most affronted.

In 1968 the marquess was given £40,000 by the Ministry of Housing for improvements to the public areas of the house. He began with new plumbing and wiring, lest the rooms be flooded or burnt down. The need was pressing enough, for as he said, "every time we plug the vacuum in, everything gets red hot".

The marquess, who was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Warwickshire in 1959, was for some years a member of the historic houses committee of the British Tourist Authority, and then president of the West Midlands Tourist Board. In particular, he successfully campaigned against the building of a motorway link-road across his land. "I don't believe tourists will continue coming to England just to see motorways — which they can see at home," he said. On the other hand, he began quarrying for sand and gravel.

During the general election of 1970, he caused a stir, as an active Tory peer, by urging Conservatives in Enoch Powell's constituency to vote Labour, because he abhorred and was appalled by Powell's attitude to immigration.

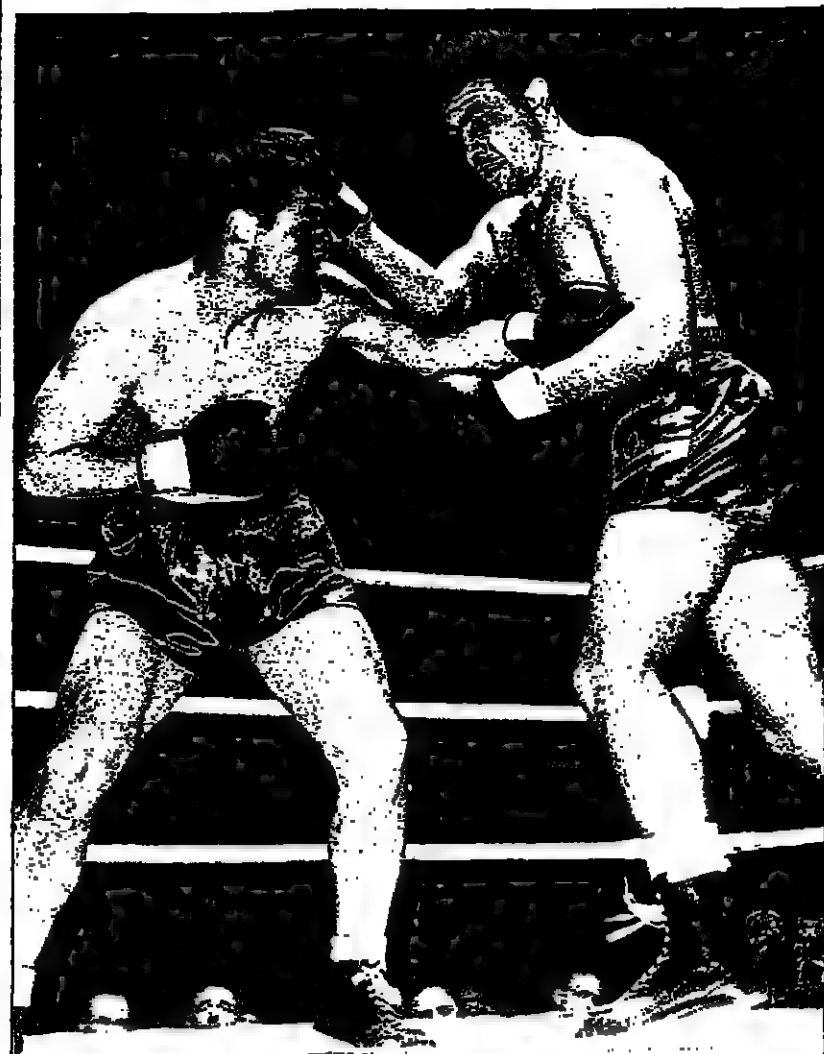
By the end of the 1970s, 118,000 visitors were coming to the house, but they were spending only 91p a head. And there were occasional problems of disappearing artefacts — a clock, tables, silver — during opening hours or from the commercial dinners in the Great Hall. Fourteen engraved sherry glasses were purloined in 1985 by visiting Americans, but recovered in the London Hilton.

History at Ragley Hall goes back well before the 17th century, for Alcester was once a Roman settlement. Roman remains on Hertford's land were scheduled as an ancient monument in 1962, and he was awarded £100,000 compensation, but in 1985 two fields were ploughed up. Remains just below the surface were inadvertently damaged, and the marquess was fined £4,000 after a prosecution brought by English Heritage.

During the 1990s the marquess and his wife became estranged, and she moved to a William and Mary cottage on the estate. Earlier this year, the marquess publicly disagreed with William Hague about the Conservative Party's abandonment of the hereditary principle, when he argued pragmatically that the peer's experience played a valuable part in the legislature. "If, together with a peerage, you have inherited a large country estate, you have to learn a lot about farming, forestry, maintenance of houses and conversion of farm buildings," he said. "Many of us have learnt a lot about the tourist trade."

He is survived by his wife and their son and three daughters. His son, the Earl of Yarmouth, who took over Ragley Hall in 1991, succeeds to the title as the 9th Marquess.

BRUCE WOODCOCK



Woodcock (left) on his way to defeat against Jack Gardner in 1950

Bruce Woodcock, boxer, died in Doncaster yesterday aged 76. He was born on January 18, 1921.

THE death of Bruce Woodcock, the British heavyweight boxing champion from 1945 until 1950, marks the end of what was a golden age of boxing in this country. At the end of the last war, the sport boomed, with fighters like Woodcock, Freddie Mills (the former light heavyweight champion of the world at a time when there was only one world champion for every weight), Peter Kane, Jackie Patterson and Eric Boon all still active in the ring. This period also saw the rise of Randolph Turpin, whose career culminated in 1951 when he beat "Sugar" Ray Robinson for the world's middleweight title. But it was Woodcock, the Doncaster railwayman, who drew the crowds to Harringay, then the favourite venue of the cigar-smoking promoter Jack Solomons.

Bruce Woodcock was a small heavyweight who weighed little more than 13½ stone. Had he been fighting today, he would have undoubtedly won the Cruiserweight championship of the world, a weight level that then did not exist. Today's heavyweights are mastodons by comparison, often weighing in at 17 stone or more. Woodcock won the Amateur Boxing Association's light heavyweight championship twice during the war. As a railwayman in the Doncaster Locomotive works of the LNER, he was in a reserved occupation. He turned professional in 1942 and won his first 19 fights by knockouts. In July 1945 he knocked out Jack London (the father of Brian London) to win the British and Empire title.

He won four more fights inside the distance when, in 1946, he was matched against the much more experienced, and larger American heavyweight contender Tami Mauriello at Madison Square Gardens, New York. It was a dreadful example of over-matching by his manager, Tom Hurst, and Woodcock, having won the first four rounds by good use of his left jab, was knocked out in the fifth by a right hand from the Italian-American. It was his first defeat and a significant one. Woodcock was at least two years away from being a contender for the title (then held by Joe Louis) and should have been brought along more carefully on a diet of less formidable Americans.

Woodcock was back in the ring in London in less than a month after his defeat when he outpointed Freddie Mills. Woodcock then won the European heavyweight title by knocking out Albert Renet of France in the sixth round. On September 17, 1946, Woodcock was matched with the then light heavyweight champion of the world, Gus Lesnevich, at Harringay Arena.

This was a sensible match as Woodcock outwitted Lesnevich by a stone. After an exciting contest which had 12,000 people on their feet cheering, Woodcock knocked out Lesnevich in the eighth round. It was the high spot of the Doncaster man's career.

Woodcock won three more fights inside the distance when, in 1946, he was matched against the much more experienced, and larger American heavyweight contender Tami Mauriello at Madison Square Gardens, New York. It was a dreadful example of over-matching by his manager, Tom Hurst, and Woodcock, having won the first four rounds by good use of his left jab, was knocked out in the fifth by a right hand from the Italian-American. It was his first defeat and a significant one. Woodcock was at least two years away from being a contender for the title (then held by Joe Louis) and should have been brought along more carefully on a diet of less formidable Americans.

the distance, defending his European title against the tough French-Pole, Stephan Olek. The ever-optimistic Tom Hurst then matched Woodcock against another American heavyweight every bit as formidable as Mauriello, the giant Pennsylvania coal miner, Joe Baksi. Baksi broke Woodcock's jaw with a left hook thrown in the first round, but the Englishman fought back bravely until rescued by the referee in the seventh.

Woodcock, although he fought on for three years, never really recovered from his fight with the Polish-American. After the contest, Baksi went back to his native Poland where he spent several weeks celebrating his victory. Later in 1947 he failed to take his training seriously and was outpointed by a second-rate Swede, Ole Tandenburg, who would have been easy meat for Woodcock.

In 1948, Woodcock beat two American heavyweights inside the distance, Lee Oma and Lee Savold. He was to meet Savold again in the following year for what was billed in Britain at least as the heavyweight championship of the world, Joe Louis having retired. But in 1949 Woodcock beat Johnny Ralph in South Africa in three rounds in defence of his Empire title, and in a fiercely fought contest for the European, British and Empire titles, knocked out the then light heavyweight champion of the world, Freddie Mills, in 14 rounds. In 1950, Woodcock met Savold for a second time, but was badly cut and retired in the fourth round.

His final fight was against the Guardsman Jack Gardner to whom he lost his titles in the 11th round. Once again facial injuries contributed to his defeat. Woodcock had 38 fights of which he won 34, all but two inside the distance.

At the time when Woodcock was fighting, boxing was a more popular sport than it is today. What television failed to cover the newspapers did, devoting an extraordinary amount of space to both Woodcock and to his popular rival, Freddie Mills. Woodcock was a good boxer in the conventional English sense: he possessed a neat left hand and a powerful right, but he was let down by his inability to facial injury (he cut easily), his slight build for a heavyweight even in those days, and by the fact that he was badly managed.

Disenchanted with boxing, Woodcock would have nothing more to do with the sport. He never attended any reunion, nor was he seen at ringside at any major event. He became a publican in his native Doncaster. His name appeared again in the newspapers a year or two ago, however, when he chased and caught two thieves who had been robbing his allotment. But in his heyday his punch and his courage endeared him to the sporting public, and with Henry Cooper, he became the most popular British heavyweight since the war. It is tantalising to wonder whether Woodcock's right would have proved more effective than Henry's famous left hook.

Bruce Woodcock married in 1947 Nora Speight. She survives him together with a son and a daughter.

RICHARD WARWICK

Richard Warwick, actor, died of Aids on December 16 aged 52. He was born on April 29, 1945.



ONE of the most attractive and graceful young actors of his generation, Richard Warwick showed in his later performances that he could pack a most emotional punch. The delightful *jeune premier* had his last theatre success playing a bereaved father in Keith Baxter's production of Patrick Hamilton's *Room*, which moved from the Minerva Theatre in Chichester to the West End. In a play where the charm of the two young murderers looked dangerously like claiming the sympathy of the audience, his naked, keenly felt sense of loss turned them around to bring home the odiousness of the crime.

Born Richard Winter (he changed his name to avoid confusion with another

Equity member), Warwick began life in Meopham, Kent, the third of four sons of an aeronautical engineer who was part of the Barnes Wallis team. The family moved to Tigley in Gloucestershire when he was young, and he was educated at Dean Close School, Cheltenham, and later at RADA.

In the cinema he had an early eye-catching role alongside Malcolm McDowell and David Wood, the "schoolboy stars" of Lindsey Anderson's controversial *If*. In Zeffirelli's *Romeo and Juliet* he played one of the young servants who set off the brawl between the Montagues and Capulets with the "I bite my thumb at you" wrangle. Zeffirelli later cast him as an officer in Mel Gibson's *Hamlet* and as Rochester's servant in *Jane Eyre*. Dick Lester engaged him for *The Bed Sitting Room*.

The success of his performance in the

title role in Andrew Sinclair's *The Breaking of Bumbo* was undermined by movie distribution difficulties. He made two films with Derek Jarman, *The Tempest* and, more significantly, *Sebastian*. Jarman's arresting account of the saint's martyrdom, filmed in Latin.

On the stage he was at times a member of the National Theatre, Young Vic and Cambridge Theatre companies. He appeared with Laurence Olivier and Geraldine McEwan in *The Dance of Death*, as Horatio in *Hamlet* and as Charles Surface in *The School for Scandal* with the Cambridge Theatre Company.

One of his most powerful theatre performances was as the son in Terence Rattigan's *In Praise of Love*, a double bill of two one-act plays, *Before Dawn* and *After Lydia*, with Donald Sinden and Joan Greenwood. When Rex Harrison starred in an extended version of the latter play, Rattigan was disappointed by the American actor in Warwick's role, and wanted Warwick for the part; he could not be released.

On television Warwick acted with a succession of leading ladies — Judy Dench (*A Fine Romance*), Joanna Lumley, Jane Asher and Wendy Craig (*I Love You, Mrs Patterson*) — all of whom adored him. A memorable early performance as Nicky Lancaster opposite Margaret Leighton in Noel Coward's *The Vortex* (1960) earned him the highest praise from the author, about whom he was as clear-eyed as he often was in his assessment of directors. "Noel doesn't understand anything about drugs," he said. "It's just a theatrical device."

During his long illness, when he was cared for at the Hospice of St John and Elizabeth in St John's Wood, he suffered a form of dementia triggered by the Aids virus, which fogged his mind but did not rob him of the essential sweetness of his nature.

PERSONAL COLUMN

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
The Christmas spirit is the spirit of goodwill and good wishes to all. Send your Christmas greetings to all your friends and family. We have a special offer for you. Call 0171 723 7770.

TICKETS FOR SALE
ALL AVAILABLE THEATRE, SPORTS, CONCERTS, OPERA, AND OTHER ENTERTAINMENT TICKETS. Call 0171 723 7770.

FOR SALE
A BOUTIQUE, 1000 sq ft, in the heart of London. Call 0171 723 7770.

MORNING SUITS
DINNER SUITS
EVENING TAIL SUITS
Call 0171 723 7770.

THE TIMES
CHRISTMAS PERIOD
For more information, call 0171 723 7770.

THE TIMES
CHRISTMAS PERIOD
For more information, call 0171 723 7770.

FOR SALE
A BOUTIQUE, 1000 sq ft, in the heart of London. Call 0171 723 7770.

TICKETS FOR SALE
ALL AVAILABLE THEATRE, SPORTS, CONCERTS, OPERA, AND OTHER ENTERTAINMENT TICKETS. Call 0171 723 7770.

FOR SALE
A BOUTIQUE, 1000 sq ft, in the heart of London. Call 0171 723 7770.

MORNING SUITS
DINNER SUITS
EVENING TAIL SUITS
Call 0171 723 7770.

THE TIMES
CHRISTMAS PERIOD
For more information, call 0171 723 7770.

THE TIMES
CHRISTMAS PERIOD
For more information, call 0171 723 7770.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
A BOUTIQUE, 1000 sq ft, in the heart of London. Call 0171 723 7770.

TICKETS FOR SALE
ALL AVAILABLE THEATRE, SPORTS, CONCERTS, OPERA, AND OTHER ENTERTAINMENT TICKETS. Call 0171 723 7770.

FOR SALE
A BOUTIQUE, 1000 sq ft, in the heart of London. Call 0171 723 7770.

MORNING SUITS
DINNER SUITS
EVENING TAIL SUITS
Call 0171 723 7770.

THE TIMES
CHRISTMAS PERIOD
For more information, call 0171 723 7770.

THE TIMES
CHRISTMAS PERIOD
For more information, call 0171 723 7770.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
A BOUTIQUE, 1000 sq ft, in the heart of London. Call 0171 723 7770.

TICKETS FOR SALE
ALL AVAILABLE THEATRE, SPORTS, CONCERTS, OPERA, AND OTHER ENTERTAINMENT TICKETS. Call 0171 723 7770.

FOR SALE
A BOUTIQUE, 1000 sq ft, in the heart of London. Call 0171 723 7770.

MORNING SUITS
DINNER SUITS
EVENING TAIL SUITS
Call 0171 723 7770.

THE TIMES
CHRISTMAS PERIOD
For more information, call 0171 723 7770.

THE TIMES
CHRISTMAS PERIOD
For more information, call 0171 723 7770.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
A BOUTIQUE, 1000 sq ft, in the heart of London. Call 0171 723 7770.

TICKETS FOR SALE
ALL AVAILABLE THEATRE, SPORTS, CONCERTS, OPERA, AND OTHER ENTERTAINMENT TICKETS. Call 0171 723 7770.

FOR SALE
A BOUTIQUE, 1000 sq ft, in the heart of London. Call 0171 723 7770.

MORNING SUITS
DINNER SUITS
EVENING TAIL SUITS
Call 0171 723 7770.

THE TIMES
CHRISTMAS PERIOD
For more information, call 0171 723 7770.

THE TIMES
CHRISTMAS PERIOD
For more information, call 0171 723 7770.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
A BOUTIQUE, 1000 sq ft, in the heart of London. Call 0171 723 7770.

TICKETS FOR SALE
ALL AVAILABLE THEATRE, SPORTS, CONCERTS, OPERA, AND OTHER ENTERTAINMENT TICKETS. Call 0171 723 7770.

FOR SALE
A BOUTIQUE, 1000 sq ft, in the heart of London. Call 0171 723 7770.

MORNING SUITS
DINNER SUITS
EVENING TAIL SUITS
Call 0171 723 7770.

THE TIMES
CHRISTMAS PERIOD
For more information, call 0171 723 7770.

THE TIMES
CHRISTMAS PERIOD
For more information, call 0171 723 7770.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
A BOUTIQUE, 1000 sq ft, in the heart of London. Call 0171 723 7770.

TICKETS FOR SALE
ALL AVAILABLE THEATRE, SPORTS, CONCERTS, OPERA, AND OTHER ENTERTAINMENT TICKETS. Call 0171 723 7770.

FOR SALE
A BOUTIQUE, 1000 sq ft, in the heart of London. Call 0171 723 7770.

MORNING SUITS
DINNER SUITS
EVENING TAIL SUITS
Call 0171 723 7770.

THE TIMES
CHRISTMAS PERIOD
For more information, call 0171 723 7770.

THE TIMES
CHRISTMAS PERIOD
For more information, call 0171 723 7770.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
A BOUTIQUE, 1000 sq ft, in the heart of London. Call 0171 723 7770.

TICKETS FOR SALE
ALL AVAILABLE THEATRE, SPORTS, CONCERTS, OPERA, AND OTHER ENTERTAINMENT TICKETS. Call 0171 723 7770.

FOR SALE
A BOUTIQUE, 1000 sq ft, in the heart of London. Call 0171 723 7770.

MORNING SUITS
DINNER SUITS
EVENING TAIL SUITS
Call 0171 723 7770.

THE TIMES
CHRISTMAS PERIOD
For more information, call 0171 723 7770.

THE TIMES
CHRISTMAS PERIOD
For more information, call 0171 723 7770.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
A BOUTIQUE, 1000 sq ft, in the heart of London. Call 0171 723 7770.

TICKETS FOR SALE
ALL AVAILABLE THEATRE, SPORTS, CONCERTS, OPERA, AND OTHER ENTERTAINMENT TICKETS. Call 0171 723 7770.

FOR SALE
A BOUTIQUE, 1000 sq ft, in the heart of London. Call 0171 723 7770.

MORNING SUITS
DINNER SUITS
EVENING TAIL SUITS
Call 0171 723 7770.

THE TIMES
CHRISTMAS PERIOD
For more information, call 0171 723 7770.

THE TIMES
CHRISTMAS PERIOD
For more information, call 0171 723 7770.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
A BOUTIQUE, 1000 sq ft, in the heart of London. Call 0171 723 7770.

TICKETS FOR SALE
ALL AVAILABLE THEATRE, SPORTS, CONCERTS, OPERA, AND OTHER ENTERTAINMENT TICKETS. Call 0171 723 7770.

FOR SALE
A BOUTIQUE, 1000 sq ft, in the heart of London. Call 0171 723 7770.

MORNING SUITS
DINNER SUITS
EVENING TAIL SUITS
Call 0171 723 7770.

THE TIMES
CHRISTMAS PERIOD
For more information, call 0171 723 7770.

THE TIMES
CHRISTMAS PERIOD
For more information, call 0171 723 7770.

Office, telephone 0151-546 2000. Tuesday, December 23, 1997. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

2
TODAY

**Test your
knowledge in
our City quiz
PAGE 25**

Why are the media so hard on lawyers?
PAGE 31

**Klinsmann makes
hero's return to
White Hart Lane
PAGES 33-40**

**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
38, 39**

TUESDAY DECEMBER 23 1997

BY RICHARD MILES
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

The £40 billion-a-year buying and discounting market is dominated by the subsidiaries of three high street banks: Alex Laurie's International Factors, Midland Bank's Griffiths and Natwest's Lombard. The Factors and Discounters Association says the market has grown nearly 20 per cent per annum in recent years.

By DOMINIC WALSH

Second-half sales of rough diamonds by the Central Selling Organisation (CSO), the De Beers marketing arm in London, were 30 per cent down on the first half of 1997, at \$1.76 billion and 16 per cent down on the same period in 1996. Overall sales for 1997 were down 4 per cent at \$4.64 billion, in line with forecasts.

The figures were unveiled in Johannesburg by Nicholas

low of uncut gems in an effort to maintain prices. Much depends on what happens in Japan, which is for about 25 per cent of diamond consumption, compared with America's 35 per cent. Economic problems, such as a weakening of the yen against the dollar (De Beers prices its products in dollars) led sales in Japan 30 per cent lower in dollar terms.

Lord Douro, left, and Joseph Kanoui believe the bid is right for shareholders.

BY RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

House and if both were available it is not clear which he would choose.

STOCK MARKET INDEXES		
FTSE 100	5018.2	(-2.0)
Yield	3.23%	
FTSE All share	2360.10	(-1.18)
Nikkei	14799.40	(-515.48)
New York		
Dow Jones	7768.99	(+12.70)
S&P Composite	948.97	(+2.19)

Increased bid of £273 million.
Page 23

BY IAN ASHBY

Second-half sales of rough diamonds by the Central Selling Organisation (CSO), the De Beers marketing arm in London, were 30 per cent down on the first half of 1997, at \$1.76 billion and 16 per cent down on the same period in 1996. Overall sales for 1997 were down 4 per cent at \$4.64 billion, in line with forecasts.

The figures were unveiled in Johannesburg by Nicholas

Much depends on what happens in Japan, which speaks for about 25 per cent of world diamond consumption, compared with America's 35 per cent. Economic problems, coupled with a weakening of the yen against the dollar (De Beers prices its products in dollars) left sales in Japan 30 per cent lower in dollar terms.

De Beers is breaking free from Anglo American, its long-standing bed-fellow, as part of a "tidying up" exercise aimed at simplifying the Anglo group structure. All Anglo's diamond activities will be concentrated

Julian Ogilvie Thompson, the Anglo chairman, said the move made strategic sense, and was in line with shareholders' wishes.

By Jason Nisse

The action throws into doubt Mr. Ecclestone's attempts to float Formula One, which was supposed to come to market in July with a £1.5 billion price tag but has yet to set a formal flotation date. Mr Ecclestone — whose £1 million gift to the

At the weekend Mr Van Miert gave an interview to a Belgian newspaper, in which he attacked financial arrangements in the sport. "Mr Ecclestone has had Formula One to himself now for 15 years," said Mr Van Miert. "A number of rulings are in the pipeline."

BY SUSAN EMMETT

Figures for the three months to the end of November show that the slowdown is not just a pre-Christmas lull. The number of surveyors reporting a rise in prices has more than halved nationally since this time last year as the cumulative effect of interest rate rises begins to bite.

However, in contrast to the usual picture, the slowdown has hit the South hardest, with the North stable. London is the only exception, with increasing numbers of surveyors still reporting rising prices.

BY JON ASHWORTH

The changes, described as tantamount to a windfall tax on professional firms, were described as "probably the worst Christmas present" the Government could have come up with. The Inland Revenue insisted the move was about "levelling the playing field" and ensuring that everyone was taxed on the same basis.

The Government is to withdraw the "cash basis" practices available to partnerships, giving rise to a "catching-up charge" in 1998-99. Firms which account on the basis of cash received or bills paid, will

Denise Catterall, tax partner in Coopers & Lybrand, said: "This is probably the worst Christmas present that partners in professional practice could have been given by the Government. In a way, it is not dissimilar to a windfall tax."

Partners face significant bills. Comments are invited by February 14.

Revised interest rates effective from 1st January 1998.

BALANCE	NEW INTEREST RATES	
	PAID ANNUALLY (GROSS %)	PAID MONTHLY (GROSS %)
£1-£4,999	5.80	5.65
£5,000-£9,999	6.15	5.98
£10,000-£24,999	7.00	6.79
£25,000-£49,999	7.05	6.83
£50,000-£99,999	7.15	6.93
£100,000 +	7.25	7.02



0141 221 1121
GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. **TTPN118**

www.dunhill.com

Warning at biotech business

By PAUL DURMAN

BIOCOMPATIBLES International, the biotechnology company whose shares slumped when it failed to secure a deal with Johnson & Johnson, has given warning that its sales are being held back by its attempts to find alternative distribution, and it is heading for an increased second-half loss.

The company is relying on national distributors to market its stents, the miniature devices used to hold open blood vessels. However, Alistair Taylor, chief executive, says these local firms are reluctant to promote the product because they expect Biocompatibles to appoint a large international distribution partner.

Stent sales grew but overall sales will not meet directors' forecasts. Biocompatibles said its second-half loss will exceed the £11.4 million it lost in the six months to June.

The company said it recently began a second round of negotiations with potential partners for its stents and other cardiovascular devices. Mr Taylor said they include Johnson & Johnson, which remains interested in Biocompatibles' body-friendly medical coating, known as PC. The shares fell 17½p to 460p. They were £14.20 before the Johnson & Johnson deal fell apart in September.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.64	2.67
Austria Sch	21.81	22.15
Belgium Fr	64.22	65.25
Canada \$	2.507	2.519
Cyprus CypL	0.811	0.825
Denmark Kr	11.86	12.07
Finland Mkk	9.50	9.75
France Fr	10.27	10.59
Germany Dm	3.12	3.28
Greece Dr	492	485
Hong Kong \$	13.71	13.51
Iceland Is	131	111
Ireland P	2.27	2.32
Israel Sh	0.97	0.92
Italy Lit	3077	3040
Japan Yen	251.65	214.10
Malta	0.883	0.894
Netherlands Gld	3.525	3.720
New Zealand \$	3.02	3.29
Norway Kr	12.73	11.79
Portugal Esc	315.03	295.00
S Africa Rd	8.77	7.92
Spain Pes	261.78	245.00
Sweden Kr	13.73	12.83
Switzerland Fr	2.54	2.33
Turkey Lira	345082	325184
USA \$	1.789	1.808

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Nikkei falls below 15,000 as Far East worries continue

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS EDITOR

ASIAN markets suffered another dismal session after four countries saw their sovereign debt downgraded by Moody's Investors Service, the international credit rating agency, three of them to junk bond status.

This latest blow to confidence in the Far East came hard on the heels of news that the International Monetary Fund had slashed its economic forecasts for the region. It virtually halved its forecast for Japanese growth next year from 2.1 per cent, estimated as recently as in October, to 1.1 per cent in its latest report.

Moody's said yesterday that it had downgraded the foreign currency ceiling for bonds and bank deposits of Indonesia, Malaysia and South Korea. It also downgraded Thailand's

foreign currency ceiling for bonds and confirmed the ceiling for bank deposits.

It said that its move was in response to worries about South Korea's short-term foreign currency financing needs. Concern about the ability of Indonesia's corporate sector's ability to meet its foreign debt obligations and Malaysia's

vulnerability to regional financial troubles. Moody's also lowered the ratings on 20 South Korean banks and on some of the country's largest firms. All were lowered to Baa, one level above junk bonds.

The unremitting diet of bad news depressed Asian currencies and stock markets. In Japan, the Nikkei 225 index

closed below 15,000 for the first time in more than two years. The index lost 515.49 points, to close at 14,799.40.

The negative impact on the Japanese economy of troubles in its key regional markets was highlighted by yesterday's announcement by Toyota that it was halting production at its two car plants in the

Philippines for a month to reduce stocks. Car sales in the Philippines have fallen 12.5 per cent over the past year.

In Seoul, the Korean stock exchange suspended trading in the shares of four companies because of rumours that they were about to default on their debts.

Today, the Finance Ministry is opening up the short-term bond market to foreign investment, but conditions could hardly be worse. Yields on three-month corporate bonds closed at 30 per cent yesterday, but still did not attract any buyers.

Wall Street struggled off Asia's latest troubles, bouncing by more than 80 points in initial trading as traders jumped into the market again after Friday's losses of 90 points. In London, the FTSE 100 index lost 2.0 points, to close at 5,018.2.

Commentary, page 23

Consumer spending slows

CONSUMER spending slowed sharply in the third quarter, contributing to a small downward revision to overall growth in the period, according to the Office for National Statistics.

Consumer spending grew 0.7 per cent in the three months from July to September, compared with 1.6 per cent in the second quarter.

City economists said that some of this slowdown could be attributed to mourning for Diana, Princess of Wales.

Nevertheless, this period also saw a £6 billion payout by the Woolwich Building Society. Simon Briscoe, economist at Nikko Europe, said that the figures proved that windfalls were being saved, not spent.

Burford in Mayfair acquisition

By CARL MORTISHED

BURFORD HOLDINGS has acquired a large property in Mayfair for almost £100 million. The property group, which recently suffered the departure of Nick Leslau, its high-profile chief executive, has acquired Mayfair Place, an island block bounded by Stratton Street and Berkeley Street, comprising two buildings totalling 256,000 sq ft.

Burford is paying Norwich Union £99.75 million for the property, which generates £7.41 million in rent, equating to a yield of 7.4 per cent. John Andersen, Burford's new chief executive, said: "We are buying Mayfair off low rents at a time when prime office rents in the West End are now £50 per sq ft and investment yields are as low as 5 per cent."

Meanwhile, Greycoat is selling a half share in Great St Helens, its City office development, to Scottish Life in a property swap involving the acquisition by Greycoat of the insurer's office and retail investment at 36 Poultry. Current market rents value Great St Helens at £30-40 million.



Michael Hephner should see "business as usual" at Charterhouse after the change

Charterhouse stake sold

BHF-BANK of Germany is selling its 50 per cent share in Charterhouse, the UK merchant bank, to Credit Commercial de France (CCF), holder of the other half stake (Richard Miles writes).

Control of Charterhouse will pass to CCF in the first quarter of 1998. No price was disclosed, but sources said that between £200 million and

£250 million would be paid for the holding.

A spokesman for BHF-Bank said the disposal stemmed from a strategic review initiated by Ernst Kruse after his appointment as chief executive officer in March.

The sale, plus the earlier disposal of a large stake in Zivnostenska, a Czech bank, would leave BHF free to

concentrate on its investment banking operations in Frankfurt, said the spokesman.

CCF emphasised that it would be "business as usual" at Charterhouse, and said it had no plans to put the company up for sale.

Charterhouse, led by Michael Hephner, reported a pre-tax profit of £40.4 million in 1996 and has assets of £1.9 billion.

Wall's faces scrutiny from MMC

WALL'S, the ice-cream company, is to face a Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation after a complaint from Mars, its rival, over supply deals (Christine Buckley writes).

The Office of Fair Trading referred Unilever, the parent company of Birds Eye Wall's, to the MMC after concern about how it distributes ice-cream through concessionaires, who supply Wall's ice cream to the shops while other wholesalers get the concessionary on what the OFT considers "less favourable terms".

John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, said: "It is consumers who lose out if the Wall's distribution policy restricts the choice of ice-creams in a shop, or makes it difficult for other manufacturers to enter or expand in the market."

Birds Eye Wall's disagreed that the concessionaire scheme restricted consumer choice. Tony Pearce, sales director, said: "A dedicated distribution system is essential to ensure our consumers receive the widest choice of ice-cream of the highest possible quality."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

TI acquires Sealol in swap and cash deal

TI GROUP, the UK engineering company, has agreed a swap deal with EG&G, of the US, that will see EG&G's Sealol Industrial subsidiary become part of TI in return for TI's John Crane Belfab unit and \$35 million. The deal values Sealol, a manufacturer of high temperature mechanical seals for the refining and petroleum industry, at \$100 million. Sealol, based in Rhode Island, earned operating profits of \$10.3 million in 1996 on sales of \$88.5 million. Belfab, acquired by TI in 1991 for \$14.3 million, supplies the semiconductor industry and the deal values it now at \$45 million. Sir Christopher Lewin, chairman of TI, said: "While we were very pleased with the performance of Belfab, it has a highly specialised product line serving the semi-conductor industry which is not coherent with John Crane's global strategy in mechanical seals." EG&G has annual sales of more than \$1.4 billion and more than 14,000 employees worldwide. TI shares rose 15½p to 455p yesterday.

Unit trust sales dip

SALES of unit trusts fell to £413 million in November from £510 million the previous month, according to figures from the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Aunit). However, last month's sales figure is still 25 per cent higher than for the same period last year. Sales of Peps, at £402 million, are slightly higher than the previous month's and 33 per cent higher than last year. Around a quarter of the £252 million attracted by companies selling funds directly to the public went to index-tracking funds.

Ivory & Sime setbacks

IVORY & SIME, the Edinburgh fund manager, underlined its need for last month's reverse takeover by Friends Provident to go ahead, with half-year results showing continuing falls in funds under management and fee income. Despite the setbacks Ivory & Sime squeezed a 5.5 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £3.97 million, pushing earnings per share up 8.2 per cent to 8.29p. An unchanged interim dividend of 2.85p will be paid on January 9.

Partners back merger

KPMG and Ernst & Young moved a step closer to cementing their global merger yesterday, when partners in KPMG Peat Marwick LLP, the American practice, voted overwhelmingly in favour of the proposals. Partners in Ernst & Young in the US gave their approval last week. Partners in member firms internationally are due to vote early next year. Price Waterhouse is pursuing its own merger plans with Coopers & Lybrand. Approval for both deals rests with regulators.

Finelist purchase

FINELIST GROUP, the auto parts specialist, is paying up to £9 million for XL Component Distribution, a steering, braking and ignition products company. XL will operate as a stand-alone business within Finelist's packaging and manufacturing division, complementing the existing activities of First Line and Autogem, the company said. Mark Marwood, the current owner and managing director of XL, will remain as managing director.

Oil prices 'will rise'

THE Saudi Government yesterday said it expects oil prices to rise next year, helped by robust growth in world demand and a commitment by fellow members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to observe new output quotas agreed last month. Current economic slowdown in Asia would not adversely affect regional oil demand, it added. Last month, Opec ministers agreed to lift the production ceiling to 27.5 million barrels per day from the start of 1998.

US insurers merge

IN A \$2.2 billion share deal, American International Group (AIG), the US insurance company, has agreed to acquire American Bankers Insurance Group. AIG is to pay the equivalent of \$47 a share to acquire American Bankers, a provider of specialised insurance services, such as life insurance related to loans. AIG underwrites commercial and industrial insurance. Its member companies provide services in about 130 countries and jurisdictions.

Freepages at the double

FREEPAGES GROUP, the interactive consumer information service provider which competes against BT's Talking Pages, more than doubled its revenues to £15.4 million in the year to September. During the same period pre-tax losses rose from £10.07 million to £14.97 million. Freepages said yesterday that it expects to gain a full Stock Exchange listing in 1998. Net loss per share after exceptional was 3.4p for the year and there is no dividend.

Arcadian shares rise

SHARES in Arcadian International rose almost 5 per cent after the hotel group admitted that it was "at an advanced stage of discussions with a potential offeror". Last week The Times reported that Patriot American Hospitality, a US real estate investment trust, was close to finalising a takeover. The group has refused to name the suitor, but is expected to make an announcement next month. Its shares gained 2½p to 60p yesterday. In August they stood at 58½p.

Buyout market tops record £7bn

By JON ASHWORTH

THE UK management buyout market broke all records in 1997, with more than £7 billion of deals, according to the latest MBO survey by KPMG Corporate Finance.

The number of larger MBOs and management buyouts reached a peak of 130 this year, compared with 114 in 1996. The final quarter of 1997 saw 25 deals worth £2 billion, Gale Bingo Halls (£300 million) and Crystal International Travel Group (£150 million). MBOs were valued at £55 million on average.

The value of larger (£10 million-plus) MBOs and MBOs peaked at £7.14 billion in 1997, up 20 per cent on 1996. KPMG expects the value to rise further in 1998.

Mike Stevens, head of MBO Services at KPMG Corporate Finance, said: "Never before has so much money been

chasing buyout deals. The success of the MBO market is generating its own momentum, sucking in international investors looking for higher-yielding homes for their money than they can find in the major stock markets."

KPMG said the prices being paid were not unreasonable. Faced with increasing nervousness in the financial markets, MBO investments in 1998 are likely to settle on quality, resulting in fewer but larger "mega-deals".

Unipol was the largest MBO, followed by General Healthcare Group (£594 million) and Welcome Break (£476 million). Other big deals involved CE Heath, Marchpole Group and Birmingham International Airport. Venture capital houses are thought to have more than £50 billion available for acquisitions in the UK and mainland Europe.

Former funeral director accused of misrepresentation

Hodgson faces Prontac writ

By JASON NISSE

HOWARD HODGSON, who was ousted as chief executive of Ronson, the lighter-maker, this year, is facing a legal claim worth up to £500,000 for misrepresentation over his role in a failed franchise business prior to joining Ronson.

Mr Hodgson, a former funeral director who courts a high profile, is named in a writ to be issued by 37 former franchisees of a company called Prontac, of which he was chairman. Four other directors of Prontac — David Meakin, Stephen Fox, Thomas Madefey and Graham Hodson — are also named in the action.

Prontac collapsed in March 1993 with debts of more than £750,000. Many franchisees lost more than £10,000 each by investing in the Prontac system, an accounting service devised for small businesses. However, there were fundamental problems with the sys-

tem that made it almost impossible to use or sell.

The legal action alleges misrepresentation by Mr Hodgson and the other directors over the financial strength of Prontac and the prospects for the franchisees. A statement of claim will be filed in the next few days and the franchisees' solicitor, Amanda Webster of Braithwaite Banks Wilson in Preston, said the total claim would reach £500,000.

"We have investigated this misrepresentation claim thoroughly, using a leading firm of forensic accountants, and we are confident of our grounds," said Ms Webster.

Mr Hodgson was chairman of Prontac and a leading investor. He appeared on the advertising for the product, saying how his funeral business had grown into a £90 million company from an initial outlay of £14,000. The literature



Hodgson: lost £750,000

the Prontac board in August 1992. Although his name was removed from the company literature, he addressed a franchisees' meeting in Birmingham in November 1992 at which no mention was made of his resignation.

Mr Hodgson told The Times that he was the main loser from the Prontac fiasco, having invested £750,000 of his own money and receiving nothing back. "The Department of Trade and Industry looked at Prontac and gave me a clean bill of health and the Inland Revenue accepted I had lost £750,000," he said. "This is a try on."

Mr Hodgson is currently suing Ronson for compensation for loss of office after his departure from the group earlier this year. Shareholders lost patience with Mr Hodgson after it issued a series of profits warnings only months after raising money from the market in a rights issue.

Anglian Water Plc
wishes everyone
a very
Merry Christmas
and a
Prosperous New Year

May we take this opportunity to tell our friends
that, once again this year, we are not sending Christmas cards.

Instead, we're making donations to
several local children's charities and hospices.

سكرا من لامل

Van Miert takes pole position



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Bernie Ecclestone has had an eventful 1997. The boss of Formula 1 gave the Labour Party £1 million — only to have it returned in a cheque which he apparently hasn't cashed. He saw some of the leading players in his sport accused of manslaughter over the death of the former world champion, Ayrton Senna — only for them to be exonerated. And he attempted to float the company that runs the sport with a £1.5 billion price tag — only for the float to be postponed indefinitely. Now he will start 1998 looking for a new partner, the dreaded European Union competition commissioner. In a battle between the diminutive former motorcycle mechanic from Suffolk and the left wing Flemish farmer's son, there can only be one winner. This time, you wouldn't put your money on Bernie.

Van Miert yesterday said the EC had decided the sport was breaching competition law — something that many had suspected, not least Van Miert. The problem is something that goes to the core of how the sport is run, and how Ecclestone created a business with paid him £54 million last year. Van Miert thinks there is too cosy a relationship between Ecclestone's Formula One Holdings — the company he wants to float — and the Fédération Internationale de L'Automobile (FIA), which runs the sport. Specifically he is

unhappy about Ecclestone's role within the constitution of the FIA — which Van Miert points out is run by Ecclestone's former legal adviser, Max Mosley. Meanwhile the FIA has given Ecclestone a contract to exploit all the media rights to Formula 1 until the year 2010 as part of a deal in which the duo co-operate to promote the sport as the premier motor racing championship in the world and the FIA maintains a strict rulebook to keep the racing teams in line. Van Miert has given Ecclestone and Mosley three weeks to respond or else he will take action against them.

Once Van Miert starts looking at the deals surrounding sport, he might never stop. Until BSkyB upped the ante on the price of live coverage of football in the UK, the amount most European broadcasters paid for filling up their schedules with sport was pitiful. In some cases they still are. And all around Europe there are little pockets of cosy practice which Van Miert might root out.

The reason why Van Miert is concentrating on Formula 1 is because Ecclestone in effect invited him in. By deciding to crystallise the value of his busi-

Tricky sums on the high street

Someone is miscalculating the strength of consumer demand: retailers, policymakers or shoppers themselves. Perhaps it is Britain's retailers. In areas such as clothing and electronics, they overstocked and began to panic about a poor Christmas. After a reportedly good last weekend, one can only

say with certainty that 1997 Christmas trade will either be relatively weak or sweatily late.

No wonder that many more big high street names than usual have blinked and started pre-Christmas sales. Autumn trading was peculiar but generally dull before December.

The latest revised national income figures show that consumer spending rose by only 0.7 per cent in the third quarter, less than half the rate in the second quarter of 1997. That includes September, a month clearly affected by the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. That event, however, may also have disguised a weakening trend also glimpsed in November.

Many retailers therefore had higher stocks than usual coming into Christmas. Douglas McWilliams, the business economist, reckons that discounts after Christmas may be unusually deep. January 1998 may have to see the sale of the century to clear

the backlog of unwanted stock, at least in some areas of expensive discretionary spending. If that proves true, consumers will have calculated smartly. Unless they succumb to a late surge today and on Christmas Eve, shoppers will have outstayed shopkeepers.

Come the New Year, the greatest danger of miscalculation will be at the monthly meetings of the Bank of England's rate-fixing monetary policy committee. They will need to reassess the trends they had assumed when they pushed through five rate rises last year.

They should also reassess the potential inflationary impact of spending, even if it were buoyant. The IMF's assault on Asia tigers is already having an impact on luxury markets, for instance for diamonds. This will bring increasing downward pressure on prices of some more modest goods. And the cause of Asian malaise was overproduction, to be cured by devaluation.

Korea et al will be selling at sharp prices, diluting any inflationary pressure in Western countries from domestic consumers. Instead of waiting until February to test fourth quarter spending before deciding on a further rise, the committee might usefully discuss straight away whether it has already put rates up too high for consumers.

Fortunes favour the brave Ruperts

There is something curious about Vendôme being taken private. This is a company which exists because of the high price of its goods. It creates its own exclusivity through the apparent rarity and cachet of its products — selling under brand names such as Piaget, Montblanc, Dunhill and Chloé. And a great deal of this has to do with their expense. Why else would one purchase a beautifully crafted wallet for £150 when something just as serviceable and as hard wearing could be obtained for a tenth of the price? So it is ironic that the fabulously wealthy Rupert family from South Africa considers that the market does not value

Vendôme highly enough — the share price having virtually halved before the Ruperts decided to buy out the 30 per cent they do not own.

The Ruperts think the market has taken an overly short-term view of Vendôme's exposure to the financial crisis in Japan. They point out that building luxury goods brands can take years of investment and a short-term problem should not affect the long-term prospects too greatly. The way the market has treated profits warnings from Donna Karan and Gucci support their view. But it is particularly difficult for the average investor to understand how the luxury goods market operates. And if the Ruperts think that the Far East crisis is a short-term blip, then good luck to them. If they are buying Vendôme at a bargain price then it is a testimony to their bravery.

All or nothing euro

COMPARED with British political fudge — now most saguaro on the euro — Romano Prodi says it refreshingly how it is. In Spain yesterday, Italy's Prime Minister nuked the official line, that joiners, including Laín, would hardly notice the difference. "I am convinced," he said "that once we have the single currency, either the entire system will collapse or else we will achieve convergence". Sounds right. It's just a question of the odds.

Chief to net £52m from buyout

BY GEORGE STEVILL

BETTERWARE, the door-to-door household goods supplier, yielded to a £117 million bid from its managing director and finance director yesterday. The deal values the holding of Andrew Cohen, chairman, and his family at £52 million.

Mr Cohen is to reinvest between £10 million and £12 million in Fenchurch Place, the NatWest Equity Partners (NWP) vehicle that has mounted the bid. This will give Mr Cohen between 20 and 24 per cent of the new vehicle. He paid £253,000 for Betterware when he bought the business from receivers in 1983.

The bid emerged from informal talks between Mr Cohen and NWP, at which NWP approached Peter Hartley, Betterware's managing director, and Paul Turner, finance director. They helped to mount the bid, which was yesterday recommended by the group's independent directors and Rothschild, their advisers.

Mr Cohen said: "For some time now my family and I have been looking to reduce our significant investment in Betterware so as to diversify our investment portfolio and pursue other interests."

Mr Cohen is keen to step up the property interests he has developed in the past three or four years. The bid values each share at 110p. Shareholders have the choice of cash, loan notes, or a so-called unit alternative that gives them an investment in Fenchurch Place on the same terms as Mr Cohen and NatWest. Betterware shares rose 10½p to close at 107½p in response.

On trading, Betterware said that its overseas joint venture operations with Avon were not expected to make a significant contribution to profits until the year 2000 at the earliest and that future development is best achieved as an unquoted company.

Mr Cohen will remain as a consultant for up to 12 days a year for a fee of up to £12,000 a year. The fee will be donated to the Betterware Charitable Foundation.

Bupa wins control of Care First with revised £273m bid

BY PAUL DUEMAN

BUPA, the medical insurance group, is about to become Britain's biggest nursing home operator after winning control of Care First with an increased bid of £273 million.

Care First's board decided to recommend Bupa's 170p-a-share offer after it became clear it could not be bettered by Chal Patel, the company's former chief executive who has been trying to put together

a deal financed by BC Partners. Acceptances from directors including Keith Bradshaw, Care First's chairman, gave Bupa 24.8 per cent of the company, but it quickly lifted its stake above 50 per cent by buying shares in the market. Bupa's original offer of 150p a share valued Care First at £241 million.

Mr Bradshaw, a founder of Takare, which merged with

Court Cavendish to form Care First last year, will receive about £21 million for his stake. He will initially remain a non-executive director, and will become a consultant to Bupa.

Mr Bradshaw, 55, said he has still to decide what to do next. He is non-executive chairman of two private companies, a substantial motor dealership and BLT Industries, a manufacturer of amplifier and PA systems. Much criticised for Care First's recent poor performance, he said: "I look forward to spending a few years indulging my entrepreneurial instincts not in the public eye."

Peter Jacobs, chief executive of Bupa, said the addition of Care First would make the group the market leader, with 211 homes and 16,000 beds. He said he believed Dr Patel's team would have tabled their own offer yesterday if Bupa had not been willing to top it. Dr Patel and BC Partners indicated to Care First late last week that they were prepared to make an offer close to 170p.

Dr Patel, who still owns more than one million shares and 800,000 options in Care First, will make about £2 million from the Bupa deal. Paul Saper, of Laing & Buisson, the healthcare analysts, said Bupa had paid a very full price, which it was able to justify because of the additional benefits it receives from its reputation and from cheaper financing. He suggested Dr Patel's former Court Cavendish management team at Care First were still waiting "with their bags packed", ready to rejoin Dr Patel in his next venture.



Chal Patel should make £2 million from the deal

City Diary, page 25

Changes at Merrydown

BY DOMINIC WALSH

MERRYDOWN, the embattled cidermaker, is to implement a board restructuring that was originally devised as a back-up in case a bid approach failed to produce a formal offer.

As a result, Merrydown veteran Richard Purdy has relinquished the role of executive chairman to become non-executive deputy chairman and Andy Nash, former managing director of Matthew Clark, a rival cidermaker, has been brought in as non-executive chairman.

There was immediately speculation that the talks with the unnamed suitor might have hit difficulties. However, Paul Millman, managing director, said the discussions continued and it had simply been decided that it would be in shareholders' best interests if Mr Nash was brought on board as soon as possible.

The takeover approach was revealed this month as Merrydown reported half-year losses of almost £1 million as a result

of a sharp drop in sales of Two Dogs, the controversial alcopop. An exceptional charge of £630,000 came from the group's decision to hand distribution of Two Dogs to Scottish & Newcastle.

The identity of the mystery bidder is still not being revealed, although speculation has centred on Pernod Ricard, the French drinks group. A brewer or a luxury goods group are also thought to be possibilities.

Sketchley back from cleaners

SKETCHLEY, the dry cleaning to cable laying group, yesterday claimed that it has sorted out the accounting deficiencies that led to the £10 million profits black hole discovered last May (Fraser Nelson writes).

The company, which fired Richard Meyers as finance director after the deficiencies were discovered, said that it has spent £600,000 restoring financial discipline to its retail arm.

John Jackson, chief executive, said the firm is on course to return to the black this year after a strong performance by ARM, its new cable laying division, contributed to a pre-tax interim profit of £3.3 million (£2.64 million).

Earnings per share were 3.2p (2.8p). There is no interim dividend. *Tempus, page 24*

Press groups move in on two family firms

BY RAYMOND SNOODY
MEDIA EDITOR

THE consolidation of the UK regional newspaper industry intensified yesterday as Johnston Press and Southern Newspapers, two of the expanding groups, agreed to buy two traditional family newspaper publishers.

Johnston Press, the fifth largest regional publisher, is paying around £52 million in cash and shares for Home Counties, which publishes 48 paid-for and free weekly newspapers. Its titles include the *Hampstead and Highgate Express*.

The Gibbs family controlled the papers for more than 100 years and currently holds a 32 per cent stake.

Tim Bowdler, chief executive of Johnston, yesterday emphasised the possibilities for revenue growth and cost savings from the elimination



Tim Bowdler: cost savings

of corporate and administrative overheads.

Southern Newspapers agreed to pay £35 million for the privately owned Bailey Newspaper Group (BNG), which has been in the Bailey family since its foundation in 1878 and as a result will move

from the tenth to eighth largest regional publisher. The group publishes 14 principal titles in Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Wiltshire and South Wales.

Home Counties had pre-tax profits of £3.2 million on a £37.3 million turnover last year, while BNG had pre-tax profits of £1.2 million on a turnover of £13.8 million.

United News and Media, publisher of *The Express*, is sifting through the bids for its remaining regional newspapers.

The newspaper industry believes that Trinity International is favourite for United's northern titles, which include the *Yorkshire Post*, and that Tony O'Reilly's Irish independent group is favourite for the southern titles, mainly in London, Surrey and Essex.

Tempus, page 24

merry

PalmPilot

Buy a PalmPilot Professional and get your free Christmas gift!

With PalmPilot, stay in touch with your most important information: address book, agenda, memo pad, to-do-list or even your email with PalmPilot Professional. HotSync technology lets you synchronise data with your PC at a touch of a button.

For more information about PalmPilot call freephone 0800 7311064 or visit our web site: www.palmpilot.com

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL "MERRY PALMPILLOT": If you buy a PalmPilot Professional between November 15th, 1997 and January 15th, 1998, choose a free Christmas gift: one of the coloured protective cases or a HotSync cable for convenient synchronisation on the road. Please find a detailed description of the offer on each PalmPilot Professional box. The Merry PalmPilot offer is subject to availability.

3Com

Country Casuals takeover agreed

BY FRASER NELSON

MARK and Christina Bunce booked themselves a £2.8 million Christmas present yesterday after agreeing to Austin Reed's £25.9 million bid for Country Casuals, the retail chain they bought out eight years ago. The Bunces, who still share an 11 per cent stake in the fashion chain, despite having resigned from the board, will now sever their links with the company after the failure of their own takeover attempt six months ago.

Austin Reed's 135p-a-share offer, comes at a 48 per cent premium to its market value before the latest merger talks were

announced. After the company rejected advances from Mr Bunce and John Shannon, his former colleague, analysts held out little hope for a successful takeover.

John Ketterley, the merchant banker brought in as chairman of Country Casuals in October, said Austin Reed will be able to use its £24 million cash pile to finance badly needed refurbishment of its 67 high street stores. He said: "We don't have the kind of money needed, and the shares would never have gone far without it. Under Austin Reed, the employees have a better deal."

Mr Ketterley is standing down as

chairman. He said: "I joined when the shares were 95p, now the offer is 135p. It's a case of last person out, switch off the lights."

Colin Evans, chairman of Austin Reed, played down the prospect of heavy investment. He said: "It's not so much a question of money, but of getting the company focused."

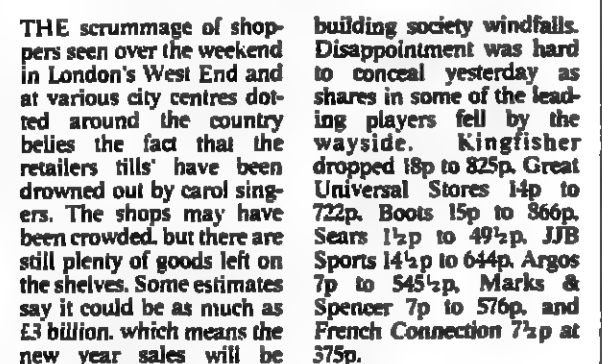
He intends to lift Country Casuals' sales of £325 per sq ft nearer to the £425 level currently achieved by Austin Reed. However, he said that a stock rejuvenation will not be complete until spring 1999. The shares jumped 11½p to 132½p yesterday.

**Stock Market Writer
of the Year**

David Montgomery has sold much of his Mirror holding

Those gaining entry to the exclusive top 100 club included **British Energy**, up 7p at 427p, and **Mercury Asset Management**, 9p lighter at £16.80. MAM's reign will prove short-lived. The £3.1 billion bid from **Merrill Lynch**, the broker, went unconditional last night.

There was another jolt for shareholders of **Scotia Holdings**, with the price tumbling 52½p to 365p after the Medicines Control Agency rejected an appeal by the group to approve Tarabatic, its treatment for diabetic neuropathy. The shares were rocked earlier this month by the departure of **David Horrobin**, chief execu-



Many retailers had been hoping for a strong run-up to the crucial festive season, fuelled by a stream of

Betterware reacted to terms of the proposed £117 million management buyout with a rise of with a rise of 10½p at 107½p.

was \$1.32 easier at \$101³¹/₃₂.
NEW YORK: Wall Street was firm as technology shares continued to rebound after a sell-off based on Asia fears in recent sessions. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 12.70 ahead at 7,768.99.

Waste Mgt Intl	182 ¹ /p (-11p)
Cantab Pharms	640p (-25p)
GEC	384p (-11p)
AB Food	523p (-14 ¹ /p)
Blacks Leis	457 ¹ /p (-12p)

Closing Prices Page 27

Asian currencies has hurt the trade. The Japanese account for 30 per cent of retail diamond consumption, while Asia accounts for almost half; makes £160 lose £10 m through "ac larities"? Since the

million in sales
tion of profit
unding irregu-

ack hole was

has much more to prove be-
fore its shares are taken out of
the sin bin.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

	December	98 ^a	1.9	150%	743	619%	245	269	344	36%	42%
	Total:	872	Calls:	341	Puts:	471					

^aUnderlying security prices.

Zurich	2.3880-2.3952	2.3904-2.3925	1'-1' pr	3'-3' pr
Source: Excel			Premium = pr.	Discount = ds.

David Sosa	578	Woolwich	2,100	Die Penn	5
Legal & Gen	1,600	Zeneca	721	Eastman	5
				Centropac	5
				Kaiser	5

56%	Northwest Corp	36%	37%	Wright (em) II	79%	77%
57%	Occidental Pet	29%	29%	Xerox	68%	68%
58%	Oracle	22%	21%	Allex Inc	35%	34%

10511 10

هكذا من العمل

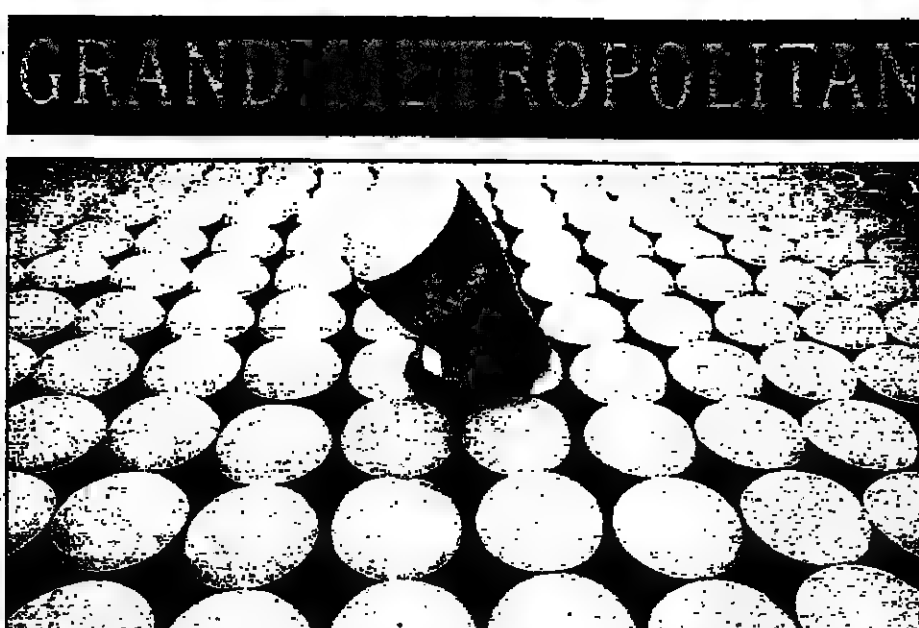
هكذا من العمل



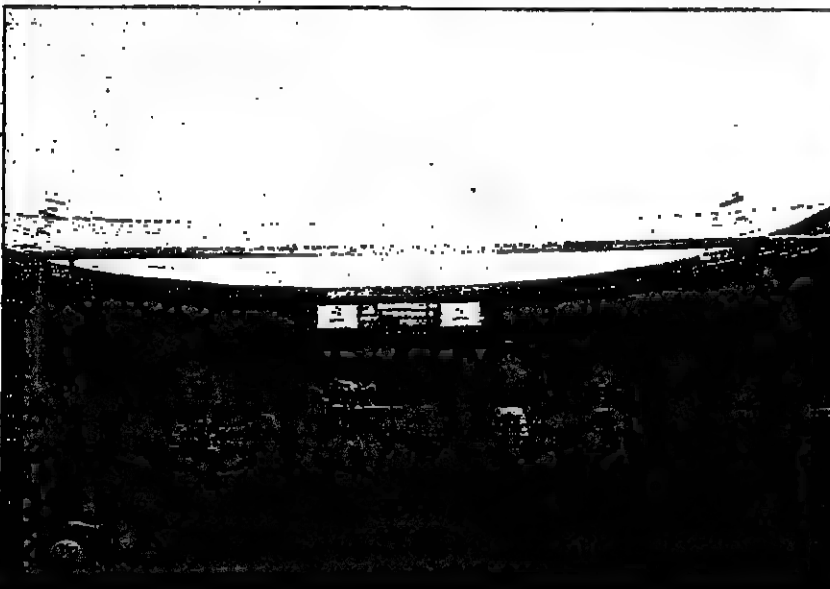
Did Roger Levitt begin his career at Barlow Clowes, Slater Walker or M&S? Question 24



For whom did the light go out at Ronson? Question 6



What do you get if you pour Guinness into Grand Metropolitan? Question 27



Can you name the player whose injury hit his club's shares, and which quoted football club found itself relegated into administration? Questions 14 and 19



Who decided he had had enough of baked beans? Question 17

Can you remember who made the City headlines this year?

Times writers trawl back through the business year in search of questions fit to test your knowledge

1. Which noted firebrand and rebel told currency speculators it was their duty to blow fixed exchange rates apart once the European currency became a reality? (Clue: the answer is neither George Soros nor Mahathir Mohamad).
2. Which retail star opened a children's boutique on the King's Road, and then attempted a comeback takeover of the company that had originally sacked him?
3. Why did a mummified piggy cause a stir in the City?
4. Which TV mogul quit the industry for a life of leisure at his family firm?
5. Which celebrity chef was hired by Granada to ginger up the restaurants at its Fortis hotel?
6. Name the former celebrity undertaker whose career at Ronson, the lighter maker, was abruptly extinguished.
7. And the much-married boss whose career at United Utilities was suddenly under water?
8. And the sailing-raid merchant-banker now serving behind the mast at the Bank of England?
9. Which City merchant bank finally won the hand of Simon Robertson, the former head of Dresdner, Kleinwort, Benson and City heavy hitter who was

courted by several big institutions when he fell out with its German management?

10. *XXX by XXX* was the typically self-effacing autobiography published this year by which American media magnate?

11. Which Tory grandee was being heavily tipped in the summer as the new chairman of GEC, a post still vacant as the year closed?

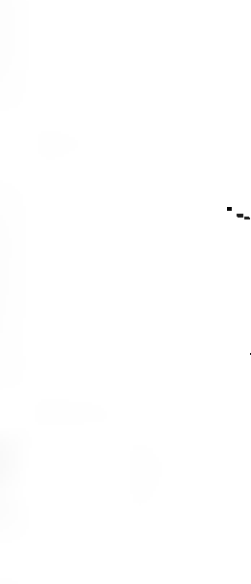
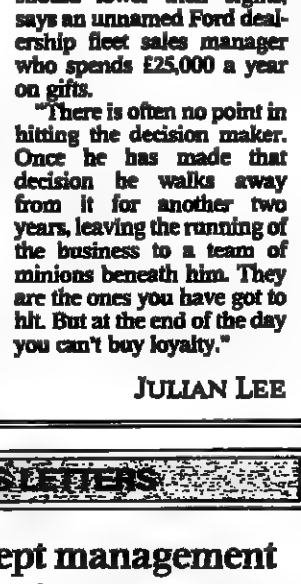
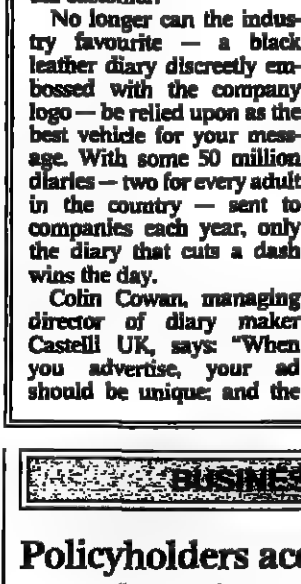
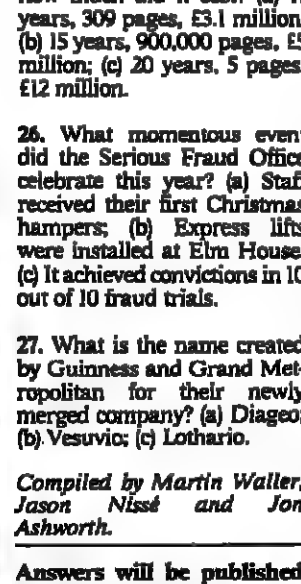
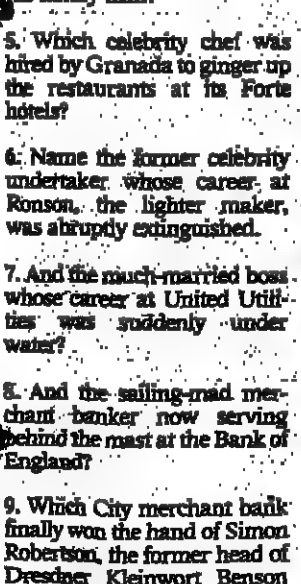
12. Match up the happy loving couples: Coopers & Lybrand, Ernst & Young, KPMG, Price Waterhouse.

13. The new City super-watch-dog is called (a) the Financial Regulatory Group (b) the Financial Services Authority (c) the Financial Services Group (d) the Super-SIB (e) the Child Support Agency?

14. Name the star footballer whose injury was an own goal for the share price of his football club?

15. Which former England cricket star is currently using his spinning skills to guide a quoted vehicle investing in the Philippines?

16. Which former motor racing champion steered his company to a stock market flotation?



Was it Kevin Keegan, Lord Moyne or Neville Chamberlain who was most trusting? Question 23

Paid monthly

CARRERS don't come much shorter than this. Gerard Wainwright, appointed chief executive of Care First on December 13, could be queuing up at the DSS by the New Year. Well, not exactly at the DSS, because he is not short of a bob or two, having already sold one business and turned around another, but you know what I mean. Yesterday's agreed bid for the nursing homes group from Bupa means he could be out of a job, if the new owners decide to run the show themselves. And no pay-off, because he was brought in on a one-month

rolling contract. "I insisted on no contractual obligations on the part of the company - I got involved in the knowledge that a bid was on the table. They insisted on one month," he says, which must have given the negotiations with the head-hunters a surreal air.



"Who told you a woman's best friend was socks?"

THE Salomon Brothers name no longer existing after the merger with Smith Barney, the American investment bank was left with various bits of corporate merchandise - gym bags, golf balls and, for some reason, a large number of those fashionable fleecy tops - still carrying it. The bank has just auctioned these, raising £10,000 for the Macmillan Cancer Relief Fund. There was some spirited secondary dealing, too, after someone from equities cornered the market in golf balls and fixed income snapped up all the fleecy tops.

Heavy weather

JOHN KETLEY, the former Warburg merchant banker who chairs



Country Casuals, is hoping for a quiet week, having just pulled off his third deal in ten days. A bleary Ketley recalls that a big disposal ten days ago by Eleco, chairman J Ketley, was followed by a disposal by BT, chairman ditto, late last week. Then Country Casuals was bought by Austin Reed yesterday. He emphasises the contributions of his various colleagues but admits: "It wasn't much fun getting up at six o'clock and getting to bed at half past four." Ketley is chairman of a fourth company, Prolific Income Trust. Anything happening there over the next few days, perhaps? He sounds appalled, as if the idea has only just occurred to him. "No. But if something does, I think my wife is going to have something to say about it."

Goose cooked

AS the old year ebbs away, what news of an old friend of this column, the disgraced German property tycoon Jürgen Schneider? The one-time fugitive from justice, whose colourful defence was that the banks must have known he was a crook, as no one could have been so stupid as to believe him, will today learn of his sentence. In a folksy and heartfelt plea at the end of the six-month trial, Schneider has begged the judge to let him walk free, saying he would like nothing more than to spend Christmas at home in Frankfurt eating goose with his family. The prosecutors are in less festive mood. Schneider has also come clean on another vital matter. The famed toupée, about as convincing as his defence, has gone.

WHEN you run a group like The Mirror with all that colourful history behind it, the last people you want to tangle with are the Inland Revenue. So David Montgomery, Mirror chief executive, yesterday did a bit of financial spring cleaning, selling 510,000 shares at 195p, largely to meet liabilities incurred under new legislation that requires payment in advance of half the bill for the latest gains on options. Monty is sitting out the two big Christmas media auctions, the sale of IPC by Reed Elsevier and United's disposal of its remaining regional newspapers.

EMU on song

KPMG Management Consulting has produced a festive variant of *The Twelve Days of Christmas* - only it's all about EMU. "On the first day of EMU, KPMG warned me: there'll soon be a single currency." Oh, we laughed around here, I can tell you. I will spare you more. (Or I might reproduce the whole thing in the New Year, if Santa is not very, very good to me). But I have a snap of Michael Littlechild, a partner, giving a rendition. I leave it to you to decide how much he is enjoying the experience.



Michael Littlechild: only 12 days to go

MARKETING

It's not just the thought that counts

EXACTLY how did your office, once the corporate nerve centre, come to resemble an Argos catalogue showroom? As you survey the motley collection of leather jotters, fountain pens, branded wind-cheater jackets, Waterford crystal and cuddly toys the answer dawns on you: someone, somewhere is trying to say thank you.

Along with countless other businessmen and women you are the target of a concerted marketing drive which climaxes at about this time of year in a stampede of calf-skin desk diaries. Long regarded as a dumping ground for cheap merchandise the idiosyncratic corporate gift industry is striving to rid itself of its "freebie" image and enter the marketing mainstream as a viable method of winning customer loyalty.

George Hayward, who as chairman of the British Advertising Gift Association represents the middlemen in the exchange process, says "gifting" remains a cheap and effective way of building that all-important one-to-one relationship. "If advertising is like grapes then this is super fire. You're never certain about advertising, but send them a gift and you know you're getting your message through to that individual," he says.

The association estimates the market is worth £500 million a year in the United Kingdom. That figure is set to rise as companies send fewer, but higher-quality items rather than flood the market with mediocre merchandise. Gill Thorpe, director of The Sourcing Team, a company specialising in promotional merchandise, says: "These days people tend to concentrate on quality rather than quantity. People can work out the cost of things very quickly so it's better to go for something with added value, something that they won't necessarily know the price of."

Tadris and cheap cut-glass numbers may still be the preferred medium for a mass promotion, but to make a real impact companies are tailoring gifts to suit the needs of the individual customer.

No longer can the industry favourite - a black leather diary discreetly embossed with the company logo - be relied upon as the best vehicle for your message. With some 50 million diaries - two for every adult in the country - sent to companies each year, only the diary that cuts a dash wins the day. Colin Cowan, managing director of diary maker Castell UK, says: "When you advertise, your ad should be unique; and the

same goes for your company's diary."

More companies are asking for different colours, materials and radical designs to give their diaries a fighting chance of staying on the recipient's desk and not landing in the bin. "The English think the diary should be staid and black but things are changing. What would you rather have, one really individual diary or five black leather ones?" says Mr Cowan.

Does anyone want them at all? Everyone does it but no one really knows why, or whether it even works. The giving and receiving of gifts is a sensitive subject and shrouded in secrecy. Measurement of effectiveness is virtually impossible. Donors rarely divulge how much they give away and whether it works. Likewise, those who regularly receive gifts are unwilling to state them for fear of being branded churlish.

Gifting has slowly, but surely, woven its way into the fabric of business life. Yet despite the boom reported by the industry, many companies still regard the line between a corporate gift and bribery as one they would prefer not to tread. Mobil, for example, forbids employees from accepting gifts or entertainment worth more than £35 or 1 per cent of that person's monthly salary.

One high street bank has a room in its City headquarters nicknamed Aladdin's Cave, where gifted merchandise is stored and then sold off at auction. Others simply don't want yet another paperwork on their desk. "I'm having to say to people 'look, I'm not doing business with you because you give me a gift box set of port and cheese - nice though that may be, I'm with you because you give me good service'," says the sales director of a small engineering company who wanted to remain anonymous.

As with any advertising medium it can fall victim to poor targeting. Most companies aim their gift marketing at the highest tier of a company's management. They should lower their sights, says an unnamed Ford dealership fleet sales manager who spends £25,000 a year on gifts. "There is often no point in hitting the decision maker. Once he has made that decision he walks away from it for another two years, leaving the running of the business to a team of minions beneath him. They are the ones you have got to hit. But at the end of the day you can't buy loyalty."

JULIAN LEE

BUSINESS LETTERS

Policyholders accept management costs, but what of mismanagement?

From Mr W. M. Roberts Sir, You gave prominence to the report of the Financial Services Authority on the Prudential Corporation (Business News, December 17). I am not one of those who was a victim of mis-selling of pension policies but I shall, from next year, be dependent in part on annuities provided by retirement annuity policies.

Contributors to policies accept that they have to incur the costs of managing the funds they subscribe. In the case of policies with mutual societies, there is, it seems, no one to bear the costs of compensating those who were sold the wrong policies, of ascertaining who should be compensated and the "fines" levied by the regulators other than policyholders themselves. In the case of companies

Letters to the *Times Business section* may be sent by fax to 0171 782 5112 or by e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

WORLD COVER

ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

CALL US ON 0800 365 121

©1996 by Travel Line One, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission from Travel Line One, Inc.

TRAVEL LineOne® The Internet's Best Kept Secret!



**"What's the best way to
travel on the Internet?"**

There's nothing pedestrian about LineOne. It gives you fast and easy access to the Internet, and the home page directs you straight to the subject you're interested in. If you want to explore the real world as well as the cyberworld, the Travel zone given you invaluable advice and information on where to stay. Check it soon.

Try LineOne and the Internet FREE. Call 800 111 210.

www.lineone.net

It's what you want to know

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

[illegible]

MESSIAH

The 250-strong Goldsmiths Choral Union combine voices with the London Philharmonic Orchestra for the traditional Christmas performance of Handel's magnificent oratorio. Soloists include Mary Hoggarty and Anne-Marie Owens. Brian Wright conducts. Albert Hall, Kensington Road, SW7 0JL. 18.30. Tickets: £10.50. (0171 589 8212) Tonight, 7.30pm.

A more modest-scale Messiah can be enjoyed at the Royal Albert Hall, which is also the venue for the 20th-century works of Purcell and Handel. The programme also offers a world premiere of a work by Judith Weir. Albert Hall, Kensington Road, SW7 0JL. 18.30. Tickets: £10.50. (0171 589 8212) Tonight, 7.30pm.

SPITALFIELDS FESTIVAL: A concert by the Jewish Community of Synagogues, directed by Felix Brodsky, features compositions inspired by the history of the Jewish people. The programme includes the 20th-century works of Purcell and Handel. The programme also offers a world premiere of a work by Judith Weir. Albert Hall, Kensington Road, SW7 0JL. 18.30. Tickets: £10.50. (0171 589 8212) Tonight, 7.30pm.

WILLIAM TELL: The award-winning National Theatre Company gives its version of Rossini's opera. The production is directed by John Adams. The programme includes the 20th-century works of Purcell and Handel. The programme also offers a world premiere of a work by Judith Weir. Albert Hall, Kensington Road, SW7 0JL. 18.30. Tickets: £10.50. (0171 589 8212) Tonight, 7.30pm.

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Youth Chorus under Simon

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargreaves



Frank Bruno stars in Goldlocks, Birmingham

effects and heaps of family fun. Hippodrome, Hurst Street (0121-622 7488). Opens tonight, 7.15pm. Tickets at varying times from £14. (0121 622 7488).

CARDIFF: Following last Christmas's successful season, the magnificent Welsh National Opera returns to town with a Christmas spectacular of two of the world's best-loved operas, *The Sleeping Beauty* and *The Nutcracker*. Welsh National Opera, Cardiff (01222 670444). Opens today, 2.30, 7.30. Then Dec 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. Tickets: £10.50. (01222 670444).

LEEDS: Entertainment for all the family is offered here as the Leeds International presents its new spectacular *The Sleeping Beauty* on ice. Leeds International, Leeds (0113 245 9551/440971). Tonight, 7.30pm. Then Dec 28, 29, 30, 31. Tickets: £10.50. (0113 245 9551/440971).

LONDON GALLERIES: **BRITISH MUSEUM:** Carver (0171-323 8325). **Hayward:** Objects of Desire (0171-408 3144). **National:** Hogarth's Masterpiece (0171-747 0885). **National Portrait:** Sir Henry Raeburn (0171-306 0055). **Royal Academy:** John Constable (0171-747 0885). **Serpentine:** Piero Manzoni (0171-402 6075). **Tate:** Symbolism in Britain (0171-488 8200). **Tate Modern:** John Latham (0171-509 8349/841).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only
Some seats available
Seats at all prices

11 (0171-389 4404): Opens Dec 17, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Mat. Sat, 3pm. Until January 31.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND: Return of Peter Hull's one-act production. **Arts Theatre:** 101-115 (0171-408 3144). **Arts Theatre:** 101-115 (0171-408 3144). **Arts Theatre:** 101-115 (0171-408 3144).

THE INVENTION OF LOVE: Tom Stoppard's new play with John Wood as the elderly A. E. Housman, carefully to keep his love life private. **Arts Theatre:** 101-115 (0171-408 3144).

THE FRONT PAGE: A new production of the classic play by George S. Kaufman and Edna Ferber. **Arts Theatre:** 101-115 (0171-408 3144).

THE ADVENTURER: A new production of the classic play by George S. Kaufman and Edna Ferber. **Arts Theatre:** 101-115 (0171-408 3144).

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol () on release across the country

THE BORROWERS (U): Musical. **Arts Theatre:** 101-115 (0171-408 3144). **Arts Theatre:** 101-115 (0171-408 3144). **Arts Theatre:** 101-115 (0171-408 3144).

THE BORROWERS (U): Musical. **Arts Theatre:** 101-115 (0171-408 3144). **Arts Theatre:** 101-115 (0171-408 3144). **Arts Theatre:** 101-115 (0171-408 3144).

THE BORROWERS (U): Musical. **Arts Theatre:** 101-115 (0171-408 3144). **Arts Theatre:** 101-115 (0171-408 3144). **Arts Theatre:** 101-115 (0171-408 3144).

The Scottish play on words

You do not need to know any Donizetti to enjoy the annual pantomime at the Players, but it adds to the pleasure, as does a bit of Bellini and a vestige of Verdi, because the Victorian pantos the company resurrects, usually those by Henry Byron, plundered opera for the theatre, although it sometimes surfaces elsewhere, famously in the musical skits of *The Two Ronnies*.

Mocking what other areas of the theatre take very seriously — such as death, murder, abduction, Valkyries on horseback or marrying your mother — burlesque introduces a sense of proportion and restores an audience to normal life (always assuming this normality excludes murder, mayhem and mother-marriage).

Alliteration is something else Byron brazenly baked into his scripts, along with deliberately dreadful puns that bring groans to the gullet.

For some mad reason of his own, Byron grafted the story of the two dear little abandoned babies onto the home life of the Macbeths. Perhaps Balmoral had just been built when this panto was written (1859) and Scotland was back in fashion again as a result. Thus we have Sir Rowland and Lady Beth Macassar, guardians of the offspring of an elder brother supposedly drowned at sea. Three witches gather around a cauldron and spread seeds of dark deeds into the minds of the Macassars, who appear in turn through a patch of gauze in the heater-tinted backdrop.

Lady Beth would like to become a thane in her own right, to which a protesting hubby replies (and it is for the punning course): "You must be mad — you surely can't be thane!" As Robert Meadowall plays him, hesitant, harrowed and hunched with guilt, you can all but hear the exclamation mark at the end of the line.

The Babes in the Wood Players

The entire show is written in complete, and I cannot say to what extent Geoffrey Brawn, adapter and director, has twiddled with them. There is no pretence at poetry, of course, and a line can be distributed between several speakers in an enjoyably ludicrous manner.

So, for example, when the missing father reappears on the scene (surprise, surprise) and the amorous governess asks the Fairy Queen if she is the missing mother, all three characters share the second line of the couplet, thus: "Their stepmother, I confess, he is a widower." "Oh, are you?" "Yes."

The Players' has perfected the style of performing with the tongue metaphorically wedged in the cheek, but there are areas of the present production where a touch of restraint should have been employed. The witches are not played well, and the brattish behaviour of the adolescent babes (Michelle Grant and Jennifer Morton) sparks no mirth in the audience.

Fortunately there is enough in other parts of the show to satisfy the wish for no nonsense: the ferociously killed Meadowall, and his superbly contralto missus (Eleanor McCready), sleepwalking in a mob cap, moaning and sobbing on cue; Jo Nappine's Fairy Queen regularly announcing her identity with a snatch of adapted Verdi; Pat Lancaster's nicely coy Governess doing something of the same sort to maintain her decorum. And when a dead robber has to be removed from the stage, he turns into a ghost and strides off. Admirable.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Sporran partners: Jennifer Morton and Michelle Grant as the Babes

POP: Company loves misery of California's beautiful losers; devil of a noise from Ipswich

Adam and the angst

Counting Crows Olympia, Dublin

IF AS Henry David Thoreau observed, most men lead lives of quiet desperation, the American representatives of the sex are generally a bit more vocal about their trials and tribulations. From Kurt Cobain to Mark Eitzel, the West Coast is as noted for the degree of existential fear and self-loathing among its pop community as it is for sun-banned psychedelia and surf rock.

So it should not come as that much of a surprise to find that for California's Counting Crows, it is permanently December and always, always raining. But while the anger-soaked lyrics and winsome whine of singer Adam Duritz suggest another troubled soul who just wasn't made for these times, he appears to be, judging by the near hysteria which greeted his every strut, the pop star with whom everyone in the audience would most like to share an umbrella.

Duritz himself seemed bamboozled by the reaction. One senses he is uneasy with his sex symbol status, but

every now and then he plays up to it: such as when standing on the monitor during *Rain King*, for example, arms outstretched, declaring that he "belongs in the service of the Queen".

But more than anything else, the dreadlocked Duritz wants to be taken seriously. Rather than just trot out the songs and lap up the adoration he opted for substantial reworkings of his material. At one stage, during *Round Here*, he even shushed the audience so we could all hear another of Charles Gillingham's ponderous keyboard bralks.

Given that this was a Friday night and the penultimate gig of a 16-month tour promoting the album *Recovering the Satellites*, one would have expected a little less intricacy and a little more exuberance. Indeed, the acoustic set — usually a welcome breather between the opening dash and closing sprint of a show — lasted for more than half the gig. At times, the show seemed like one long rehearsal for that *Unplugged* special which must be just around the corner.

But you can't blame a band for wanting to keep things interesting for themselves and in truth the blend of plaintive accordion, mandolin and acoustic guitar was not without its charm. Indeed, their finest moment is possibly the piano-led lament, *A Long December*, which made for a sadly beautiful encore.

NICK KELLY

Counting Crowley

Cradle of Filth LA2, WI

RATHER like the anti-heroes of gangsta rap, black metal bands tread a fine line between absurd burlesque and grim reality. For those unfamiliar with the genre, black metal is an extreme combination of gothic rock and thrash metal, garnished to taste with a vaguely Satanic or anti-Christian philosophy. In Norway, where they take these things seriously, the singer of a black metal group called Burzum was jailed for 21 years for murdering a member of a rival band. In Ipswich, Cradle of Filth's home town, the worst that has happened so far is that a couple of fans have been cautioned for wearing the group's gratuitously offensive T-shirts.

Whatever they get up to in the woods at night, Cradle of Filth are pure pantomime on stage. They all dress in black leather and huge biker boots. The singer, Dani, and sundry guitarists all have long, shaggy mops of jet black hair which they shake and whirl with impressive ferocity.

The music is sometimes played very

slowly, like that of Black Sabbath, but more often ludicrously fast in a bizarre, comic-book style invented in the 1980s by Napalm Death. On songs including *A Gothic Romance* (Red Roses for the Devil's Whore) and the title track of their album, *Dusk and Her Embrace*, Dani's vocals alternate between a high, strangled yell and a deep, vomit-simulating roar.

The audience is almost as entertaining to watch as the band. Some lurk in the shadows, their white-painted faces and black panda eyes a homage to originators such as Count Dracula and Alice Cooper. Others hurl themselves towards the group, surfing over the heads of the crowd to land in the arms of the over-worked security staff patrolling the foot of the stage.

Despite much effort, the on-stage theatrics are distinctly low-budget. During the last number a dominatrix appears brandishing a Super Soaker water gun filled with a goopy red liquid. She squirts it at the crowd, but the pump is faulty, and most of it lands on the bald head of the long-suffering bouncer in front of the stage.

"We like to play as close as possible to midnight," Dani announced, as the set drew to a close at 10pm to make way for the venue's gay club night. As the sweaty disciples spilled out into the cold night air one question remained: if the devil has all the best tunes, then what was he doing tonight?

DAVID SINCLAIR

OPERA & BALLET

COUSINS 0171 633 0300 (ring) **ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET** *Don Quixote* New Production **THE NUTCRACKER** Mon-Sat 2.30 & 7.30pm. No part Wed & Sat. Tickets from £7.50.

THE ROYAL BALLET *At the Royal Festival Hall* **Don Quixote** 0171 960 4242. Tickets also available from Ticketmaster on 0171 567 0211. (Fri First Night, Fri, Sat, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun, 2.00, 7.30, 10.00, 12.00, 15.00, 20.00, 25.00, 30.00, 35.00, 40.00, 45.00, 50.00, 55.00, 60.00, 65.00, 70.00, 75.00, 80.00, 85.00, 90.00, 95.00, 100.00, 105.00, 110.00, 115.00, 120.00, 125.00, 130.00, 135.00, 140.00, 145.00, 150.00, 155.00, 160.00, 165.00, 170.00, 175.00, 180.00, 185.00, 190.00, 195.00, 200.00, 205.00, 210.00, 215.00, 220.00, 225.00, 230.00, 235.00, 240.00, 245.00, 250.00, 255.00, 260.00, 265.00, 270.00, 275.00, 280.00, 285.00, 290.00, 295.00, 300.00, 305.00, 310.00, 315.00, 320.00, 325.00, 330.00, 335.00, 340.00, 345.00, 350.00, 355.00, 360.00, 365.00, 370.00, 375.00, 380.00, 385.00, 390.00, 395.00, 400.00, 405.00, 410.00, 415.00, 420.00, 425.00, 430.00, 435.00, 440.00, 445.00, 450.00, 455.00, 460.00, 465.00, 470.00, 475.00, 480.00, 485.00, 490.00, 495.00, 500.00, 505.00, 510.00, 515.00, 520.00, 525.00, 530.00, 535.00, 540.00, 545.00, 550.00, 555.00, 560.00, 565.00, 570.00, 575.00, 580.00, 585.00, 590.00, 595.00, 600.00, 605.00, 610.00, 615.00, 620.00, 625.00, 630.00, 635.00, 640.00, 645.00, 650.00, 655.00, 660.00, 665.00, 670.00, 675.00, 680.00, 685.00, 690.00, 695.00, 700.00, 705.00, 710.00, 715.00, 720.00, 725.00, 730.00, 735.00, 740.00, 745.00, 750.00, 755.00, 760.00, 765.00, 770.00, 775.00, 780.00, 785.00, 790.00, 795.00, 800.00, 805.00, 810.00, 815.00, 820.00, 825.00, 830.00, 835.00, 840.00, 845.00, 850.00, 855.00, 860.00, 865.00, 870.00, 875.00, 880.00, 885.00, 890.00, 895.00, 900.00, 905.00, 910.00, 915.00, 920.00, 925.00, 930.00, 935.00, 940.00, 945.00, 950.00, 955.00, 960.00, 965.00, 970.00, 975.00, 980.00, 985.00, 990.00, 995.00, 1000.00, 1005.00, 1010.00, 1015.00, 1020.00, 1025.00, 1030.00, 1035.00, 1040.00, 1045.00, 1050.00, 1055.00, 1060.00, 1065.00, 1070.00, 1075.00, 1080.00, 1085.00, 1090.00, 1095.00, 1100.00, 1105.00, 1110.00, 1115.00, 1120.00, 1125.00, 1130.00, 1135.00, 1140.00, 1145.00, 1150.00, 1155.00, 1160.00, 1165.00, 1170.00, 1175.00, 1180.00, 1185.00, 1190.00, 1195.00, 1200.00, 1205.00, 1210.00, 1215.00, 1220.00, 1225.00, 1230.00, 1235.00, 1240.00, 1245.00, 1250.00, 1255.00, 1260.00, 1265.00, 1270.00, 1275.00, 1280.00, 1285.00, 1290.00, 1295.00, 1300.00, 1305.00, 1310.00, 1315.00, 1320.00, 1325.00, 1330.00, 1335.00, 1340.00, 1345.00, 1350.00, 1355.00, 1360.00, 1365.00, 1370.00, 1375.00, 1380.00, 1385.00, 1390.00, 1395.00, 1400.00, 1405.00, 1410.00, 1415.00, 1420.00, 1425.00, 1430.00, 1435.00, 1440.00, 1445.00, 1450.00, 1455.00, 1460.00, 1465.00, 1470.00, 1475.00, 1480.00, 1485.00, 1490.00, 1495.00, 1500.00, 1505.00, 1510.00, 1515.00, 1520.00, 1525.00, 1530.00, 1535.00, 1540.00, 1545.00, 1550.00, 1555.00, 1560.00, 1565.00, 1570.00, 1575.00, 1580.00, 1585.00, 1590.00, 1595.00, 1600.00, 1605.00, 1610.00, 1615.00, 1620.00, 1625.00, 1630.00, 1635.00, 1640.00, 1645.00, 1650.00, 1655.00, 1660.00, 1665.00, 1670.00, 1675.00, 1680.00, 1685.00, 1690.00, 1695.00, 1700.00, 1705.00, 1710.00, 1715.00, 1720.00, 1725.00, 1730.00, 1735.00, 1740.00, 1745.00, 1750.00, 1755.00, 1760.00, 1765.00, 1770.00, 1775.00, 1780.00, 1785.00, 1790.00, 1795.00, 1800.00, 1805.00, 1810.00, 1815.00, 1820.00, 1825.00, 1830.00, 1835.00, 1840.00, 1845.00, 1850.00, 1855.00, 1860.00, 1865.00, 1870.00, 1875.00, 1880.00, 1885.00, 1890.00, 1895.00, 1900.00, 1905.00, 1910.00, 1915.00, 1920.00, 1925.00, 1930.00, 1935.00, 1940.00, 1945.00, 1950.00, 1955.00, 1960.00, 1965.00, 1970.00, 1975.00, 1980.00, 1985.00, 1990.00, 1995.00, 2000.00, 2005.00, 2010.00, 2015.00, 2020.00, 2025.00, 2030.00, 2035.00, 2040.00, 2045.00, 2050.00, 2055.00, 2060.00, 2065.00, 2070.00, 2075.00, 2080.00, 2085.00, 2090.00, 2095.00, 2100.00, 2105.00, 2110.00, 2115.00, 2120.00, 2125.00, 2130.00, 2135.00, 2140.00, 2145.00, 2150.00, 2155.00, 2160.00, 2165.00, 2170.00, 2175.00, 2180.00, 2185.00, 2190.00, 2195.00, 2200.00, 2205.00, 2210.00, 2215.00, 2220.00, 2225.00, 2230.00, 2235.00, 2240.00, 2245.00, 2250.00, 2255.00, 2260.00, 2265.00, 2270.00, 2275.00, 2280.00, 2285.00, 2290.00, 2295.00, 2300.00, 2305.00, 2310.00, 2315.00, 2320.00, 2325.00, 2330.00, 2335.00, 2340.00, 2345.00, 2350.00, 2355.00, 2360.00, 2365.00, 2370.00, 2375.00, 2380.00, 2385.00, 2390.00, 2395.00, 2400.00, 2405.00, 2410.00, 2415.00, 2420.00, 2425.00, 2430.00, 2435.00, 2440.00, 2445.00, 2450.00, 2455.00, 2460.00, 2465.00, 2470.00, 2475.00, 2480.00, 2485.00, 2490.00, 2495.00, 2500.00, 2505.00, 2510.00, 2515.00, 2520.00, 2525.00, 2530.00, 2535.00, 2540.00, 2545.00, 2550.00, 2555.00, 2560.00, 2565.00, 2570.00, 2575.00, 2580.00, 2585.00, 2590.00, 2595.00, 2600.00, 2605.00, 2610.00, 2615.00, 2620.00, 2625.00, 2630.00, 2635.00, 2640.00, 2645.00, 2650.00, 2655.00, 2660.00, 2665.00, 2670.00, 2675.00, 2680.00, 2685.00, 2690.00, 2695.00, 2700.00, 2705.00, 2710.00, 2715.00, 2720.00, 2725.00, 2730.00, 2735.00, 2740.00, 2745.00, 2750.00, 2755.00, 2760.00, 2765.00, 2770.00, 2775.00, 2780.00, 2785.00, 2790.00, 2795.00, 2800.00, 2805.00, 2810.00, 2815.00, 2820.00, 2825.00, 2830.00, 2835.00, 2840.00, 2845.00, 2850.00, 2855.00, 2860.00, 2865.00, 2870.00, 2875.00, 2880.00, 2885.00, 2890.00, 2895.00, 2900.00, 2905.00, 2910.00, 2915.00, 2920.00, 2925.00, 2930.00, 2935.00, 2940.00, 2945.00, 2950.00, 2955.00, 2960.00, 2965.00, 2970.00, 2975.00, 2980.00, 2985.00, 2990.00, 2995.00, 3000.00, 3005.00, 3010.00, 3015.00, 3020.00, 3025.00, 3030.00, 3035.00, 3040.00, 3045.00, 3050.00, 3055.00, 3060.00, 3065.00, 3070.00, 3075.00, 3080.00, 3085.00, 3090.00, 3095.00, 3100.00, 3105.00, 3110.00, 3115.00, 3120.00, 3125.00, 3130.00, 3135.00, 3140.00, 3145.00, 3150.00, 3155.00, 3160.00, 3165.00, 3170.00, 3175.00, 3180.00, 3185.00, 3190.00, 3195.00, 3200.00, 3205.00, 3210.00, 3215.00, 3220.00, 3225.00, 3230.00, 3235.00, 3240.00, 3245.00, 3250.00, 3255.00, 3260.00, 3265.00, 3270.00, 3275.00, 3280.00, 3285.00, 3290.00, 3295.00, 3300.00, 3305.00, 3310.00, 3315.00, 3320.00, 3325.00, 3330.00, 3335.00, 3340.00, 3345.00, 3350.00, 3355.00, 3360.00, 3365.00, 3370.00, 3375.00, 3380.00, 3385.00, 3390.00, 3395.00, 3400.00, 3405.00, 3410.00, 3415.00, 3420.00, 3425.00, 3430.00, 3435.00, 3440.00, 3445.00, 3450.00, 3455.00, 3460.00, 3465.00, 3470.00, 3475.00, 3480.00, 3485.00, 3490.00, 3495.00, 3500.00, 3505.00, 3510.00, 3515.00, 3520.00, 3525.00, 3530.00, 3535.00, 3540.00, 3545.00, 3550.00, 3555.00, 3560.00, 3565.00, 3570.00, 3575.00, 3580.00, 3585.00, 3590.00, 3595.00, 3600.00, 3605.00, 3610.00, 3615.00, 3620.00, 3625.00, 3630.00, 3635.00, 3640.00, 3645.00, 3650.00, 3655.00, 3660.00, 3665.00, 3670.00, 3675.00, 3680.00, 3685.00, 3690.00, 3695.00, 3700.00, 3705.00, 3710.00, 3715.00, 3720.00, 3725.00, 3730.00, 3735.00, 3740.00, 3745.00, 3750.00, 3755.00, 3760.00, 3765.00, 3770.00, 3775.00, 3780.00, 3785.00, 3790.00, 3795.00, 3800.00, 3805.00, 3810.00, 3815.00, 3820.00, 3825.00, 3830.00, 3835.00, 3840.00, 3845.00, 3850.00, 3855.00, 3860.00, 3865.00, 3870.00, 3875.00, 3880.00, 3885.00, 3890.00, 3895.00, 3900.00, 3905.00, 3910.00, 3915.00, 3920.00, 3925.00, 3930.00, 3935.00, 3940.00, 3945.00, 3950.00, 3955.00, 3960.00, 3965.00, 3970.00, 3975.00, 3980.00, 3985.00, 3990.00, 3995.00,

BRIEFLY NOTED

Rent for London

THEATRE The West End will see *Rent*, the hottest ticket on Broadway, next year. The musical, a reworking of Puccini's opera *La Bohème* that places the story in present-day New York, opened at the New York Theatre Workshop in February 1996, before transferring to Broadway in April that year. It then played to continuously sold-out houses and won four Tony Awards. The death of its young creator, Jonathan Larson, just before the show opened did nothing to hinder its subsequent cult success. Four of the Broadway cast will be starting in the London production, which opens at the Shaftesbury Theatre on May 12.

POP The backlash against the Prodigy title *Smack My Bitch Up* continues with the decision by 4,000 American high-street stores to remove the album containing the song from their shelves. Wal-Mart and Kmart stores decided not to stock Prodigy's *Smack My Bitch Up* after American newspapers drew attention to the offensive title of its most notorious song, and the National Organisation of Women declared that it glorified domestic violence. Wal-Mart and Kmart are among the largest record retailers in America, but their decision is somewhat belated: the album is already a top seller.

MUSIC The power of the Internet has forged an unlikely rapport between a Chinese radio station and that very English organisation, the Elgar Society. A classical music presenter on Nanjing Music Radio contacted the society by sending an e-mail to its Website, and asked for "a few classical CDs composed by Elgar", because they were difficult to buy in China. The society responded with 17 recordings of the composer's work, and are now attempting to establish links with other Chinese radio stations. A case of pomp rising to the challenge of circumstance, perhaps.

FICTION Emir Kusturica, the perennial darling of the European film festival circuit, is to direct one of Dennis Potter's last projects — a screenplay adaptation of *The White Hotel* that radically reinterprets D.M. Thomas's most celebrated novel. A complex chronicle of a woman's life and fantasies from 1900 to the start of the Second World War, the book has been translated into 20 languages since the Cornish author wrote it in 1981. Potter, who died in 1994, was commissioned to write a screen adaptation by the producers Robert Geisler and John Roberdeau in 1990.

Richard Cork takes a cool look at a disturbing, newly revealed Renaissance image of the Nativity

A holy mother knows best

Glimpsed from a distance, Sebastiano del Piombo's painting seems the quintessence of tenderness. Executed on a tondo-shaped panel, the picture uses its circular format to emphasise a binding intimacy between mother and offspring. We appear to be spying, as if through an enlarged keyhole, at a private scene. The Virgin leans forward to handle the cloth swathing her child's chubby thighs.

Until recently the painting was in a private collection, little-known other than to Renaissance specialists. But now that the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge has purchased it for £1.6 million, with the help of a lottery grant, the picture can be studied by anyone. And as we draw nearer, the more troubling Sebastiano's image becomes.

Sebastiano was still a young man when he painted this gravely affecting Madonna and Child. Probably executed soon after he left Venice for Rome in 1511, the panel marks a decisive moment in his development. Having worked closely with the short-lived Giorgione, he knew how to saturate his paintings with the Venetian palette at its most sensuous. But the move to Rome, at the invitation of the banker Agostino Chigi, brought about a profound change. Painting mythological frescoes at the Villa Farnesina, Sebastiano encountered Raphael's work in the same building. Above all, he must have been astounded by the awesome ceiling cycle Michelangelo was completing at the Sistine Chapel.

The two men became friends. Michelangelo provided Sebastiano with drawings to help him with three major commissions, most notably a monumental *Raising of Lazarus* now in the National Gallery. Sebastiano became a stern Roman classicist, and was rewarded in 1531 with the keepership of the papal seals or *piombatore* — a post which gave the artist his enduring nickname.

Even in a Rome work as early as the *Madonna and Child*, he is determined to cast aside beguiling Venetian lyricism. Both figures in the Fitzwilliam tondo are grander than anything he had produced before. Rather than relying on drawings supplied by Michelangelo, Sebastiano seems here to have taken his main stimulus from the Sistine Chapel itself. The child's twisted pose appears to be based on one of the angels supporting God in Michelangelo's magisterial fresco *The Creation of Adam*. As for Sebastiano's Virgin, she derives from the imposing figure of the Cumaean Sibyl on the Sistine ceiling. The wrinkled woman in Michelangelo's painting has become a youthful mother, and Sebastiano makes his Madonna slimmer than the sturdy, strangely muscular old prophetess. But this Virgin is still formidably well-built.

Sebastiano's powerful *Madonna and Child*: the goldfinch clutched in the boy's hand is more than a mere childish distraction, as his mother knows

She inclines her head towards the child with impressive dignity. The Roman kerchief covering much of her hair dangles on one side, defining her profile with chiselled clarity. She does not smile, and her broad, lowered eyelid adds to the sense of gravitas. Although this Madonna lacks the seasoned wisdom of the Cumaean Sibyl, she possesses hieratic authority in abundance. Enough of her neck is visible to establish its strength. And the dark cloth of honour providing the Virgin's backdrop, just as it does in so many paintings by Sebastiano's master Giovanni Bellini, reinforces her sculptural solidity.

The edge of the cloth sends a powerful vertical line slicing down through the picture, threatening to sever the mother from her infant. But Sebastiano ensures that the

Madonna's resolute arms stretch across this division. She is firmly linked with the child, and her right hand closes on his shoulder with unusual, clamp-like conviction.

More than anything else, those resolute fingers offer the key to understanding the picture's full significance. For Sebastiano juxtaposes their pallid, fiercely clenched angularity with the soft and fluffy glow of a goldfinch. The Christ child holds the bird in his plump fist. He has clearly been playing with it, and the distraction accounts for his extravagantly twisted pose. The Virgin's clasping hand causes his head to swivel back in her direction. He must have sensed the persistence of his mother's protective gesture,

and gazes up at her with an air of puzzlement.

Why does she seek to divert him from the bird? His involvement with the pet seems harmless, and Sebastiano places it against a landscape enchanting enough to associate the goldfinch with unalloyed delight. There, in a setting where sunlight tinges the walls of a hilltop town and makes a high cloud blaze with whiteness, Sebastiano allows himself to recall his past. It is an act of homage to his origins, and proves that he could still paint with all his former Venetian charm.

But the appeal of the countryside seems fugitive compared with the heavy, assertive bulk of mother and offspring. Their convoluted interplay gives the painting its central tension, and the Virgin has good reason to wrest her child's attention away from

the bird. She knows, as well as the patron who commissioned this painting, that the goldfinch, widely favoured as a pet in 16th-century Italy, was also a symbol of Christ's passion and death. When Michelangelo carved the marble tondo now owned by the Royal Academy, he made the Christ child recoil in alarm from the goldfinch offered by John the Baptist. Sebastiano's infant is not frightened by his bird, but the Madonna appreciates its larger meaning only too well.

This is a mother who, alerted by the goldfinch, wants to be reunited with her son. She tries to prevent him moving impulsively away, beyond the safety of her grasp. The true extent of the Virgin's determination is disclosed by her attempt to wrap him in the drape she herself is wearing. The brilliant yellow cloth runs like an umbilical cord between

Madonna and infant, and signifies the fervency of her wish never to let him go.

Ultimately, though, they both know how impossible that desire really is. The boy, fast growing beyond babyhood, occupies his own space separate from the Virgin. He clutches the goldfinch with possessive resolve, and his mother gazes down at him with a hint of the mournfulness which will overwhelm her when Christ's lifeless body is lowered from the cross.

Tragedy here is withheld by the stubborn assertion of maternal will. But the boy responds to her attempted embrace with reluctance, and already seems oppressed by a premonition of the suffering to come.

● *Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge (01223 337000), then at the Royal Academy's Art Treasures of England exhibition from Jan 22*

AROUND THE GALLERIES

THE standing of Glyn Philpot (1884-1937) remains more enigmatic than that of any other major 20th-century British painter. This may have something to do with his private life: he was openly homosexual — or as openly as anyone was in those days. But more to the point, he underwent a spectacular change of style in mid-career: in 1930 he suddenly "went Picasso", as a newspaper of the day put it. Up to then he had been a fairly conservative, respectable painter with considerable success. But in his late forties he threw it all aside, adopting instead a spare, comparatively modern style, influenced primarily by Rose period Picasso and lining him up with that brand of Parisian chic we would now call Deco. He was accused of cynicism and opportunism and lost many of his old admirers without living long enough to establish a solid new reputation. The show at the Fine Art Society is heavily weighted towards the last period, much of it coming from the collection of his niece, Gabrielle Cross, who died recently. It includes fine portraits, among them famous images of Vivian Forbes and of Jules Zaire, a black Paris barman. There are also some of his magical Symbolist fantasies, such as *Saint Sebastian* and *Fugue*, both of 1932, and some highly evocative North African scenes. There seems no doubt that his last period was far and away his finest. High time to forget the kerfuffle these paintings caused and accept them gratefully for just what they are.

Fine Art Society, 148 New Bond Street, W1 (0171 629 5116), Mon-Fri 9.30am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm, until Jan 16

■ SINCE the circus contains so many glittering encounters between illusion and reality, glamour and squalor, pleasure and pain, it is hardly surprising that so many artists have been drawn to it. In 1937 Morris Kestelman was commissioned to prepare colour lithographic illustrations for a book on the circus in England. The advent of the war meant the book never appeared, and the lithographs are only now published. To celebrate the occasion, Kestelman's 92nd birthday, the Boundary Gallery presents a seasonal show of Kestelman on the circus, contrasted with three other artists, American (Jacqueline Morreau), British (Gillian Kogan) and Georgian (Jacob Jugashvili). The variety of response is astonishing.

Boundary Gallery, 93 Boundary Road, NW8 (0171-624 1126), Wed-Sat 11am-6pm, reopens Jan 7, until Jan 17

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

MUSIC: Hettie Judah joins Pavarotti, Bono and pals as they touch down in Bosnia to open the War Child charity's music centre. Plus concert reviews

Pipe up for peace

Society ladies may prefer New York, but for that last pre-Christmas Day trip, musicians favour Mostar. This week Luciano Pavarotti was delivered on to Bosnian soil through the back end of a vast RAF Chinook, flanked by Mostar's black and formerly Serb-soldiered hills. It was a suitably surreal piece of stage direction for the maestro's visit: despite all the publicity, money and music that he had put into the country through his "Pavarotti and Friends" concerts, this was his first ever sniff of Bosnian air.

While he may have witheld his physical presence, his influence has secured the development of one of the boldest arts projects on the route to Bosnian regeneration. The construction of War Child's "Pavarotti Music Centre" in divided, chimeric Mostar is an expression not simply of hope for the future of Bosnia's children, but of almost crazy faith in the future of the city.

Mostar is still strongly divided along Bosnian Muslim and Croat lines. Car bombs have gone off as recently as September, and day-to-day tensions still run high. Even Pavarotti's co-sponsor, U2 frontman Bono, admits that the centre will be a tempting target should the Croats restart their bomb attacks. Built behind the facade of a shelled orphanage in Muslim East Mostar, the building is bright, modern and prominently positioned. It was hinted that Pavarotti's obviously Italian, and hence Catholic, name was



Pavarotti: high-speed trip

attached to the building to defer a Catholic Croat offensive. There are few who would invest in a major capital project in a time of such uncertain peace, and it is to War Child's and Pavarotti's great credit that they were brave enough to do so.

In a four-hour visit there is room for little more than symbolic gestures: this trip was potent with them. Having broken his oath that he would never fly in a helicopter (he later told me that it was something "I would not do for a million dollars, but I'd do it for these children"), Pavarotti hurtled through the city at uncharacteristic speed. He had an impressive entourage: Bono, Brian Eno, Bianca Jagger, Sir Tom Stoppard and a batch of Italian musical stars came to express solidarity. For one evening at least, his gesture of peace was reciprocated.

The mayors of east and west were seen together for the first time, and the visitors were greeted in the devastated Musalla Square, which at the height of the conflict received an estimated 3,000 shells a day, by a choir of children from both sides of the city waiting peacefully in the rain.

"When you are happy you sing in the shower," Pavarotti told me. It is this absent joy that the project is trying to reintroduce into the lives of Bosnia's traumatised children. Conceived as a world-leading centre for experimental music therapy, it will build on the work of two British charities, War Child and the Serious Road Trip, during the conflict. The centre is already claiming impressive results: children who could not speak have found a voice. Beyond individual therapy, it is hoped that making music together will unite children.

It is still too early to bathe in idealism. The children's concert for Pavarotti was crawling with security men and plain-clothed police, each side watching the other closely. Even the ridiculous brevity of the musicians' visit was dictated by a disagreement between the rival mayors who refused to let a British plane into the city's airport.

"This war will produce music of real anger," Bono told me. "Any city has a right to make noise to exorcise what they've been through." It seems that Mostar has got to make some serious noise before we hear the melody.

Festive gifts

A BUSY weekend for Stephen Layton's vocal ensemble Polyphony saw them give Handel's Messiah on Saturday and half of Bach's Christmas Oratorio on Sunday, both at St John's, Smith Square. They were assisted in Sunday's programme by the early music group Canzona (director Theresa Caudle) which, as well as accompanying the first three parts of the Bach, filled out the programme with Corelli's Concerto Grosso Op 6 No 8 in G minor, the "Christmas Concerto".

The core of Canzona is small but flexible — players are added for larger works such as the Bach — and a sense of that individual response came across in the Corelli. Just as the members of a string quartet would interact, so Canzona's instrumentalists breathed together in the Adagio sections and struck sparks off each other in the Allegros.

Taking over the direction for the Christmas Oratorio, Stephen Layton adopted similarly judicious tempi. The *Sinfonia* introducing Part 2, another pastoral movement, had a perfectly judged, lilting dotted rhythm, pushing gently forward all the time. The big choral movements, such as those opening Parts 1 and 3, had buoyancy as well as an appropriately celebratory air, while the chorales were treated with imaginative variety.

Catherine Box made the most of the relatively minor

Polyphony/Canzona/Layton

St John's soprano role, duetting stylishly with the bass, Michael George, in *Lord, Thy Mercy*. George himself has one of the noblest voices in the early music business, and even if there were worrying signs of it spreading unduly, he delivered his numbers with customary aplomb. Catherine Wyn-Rogers was a fine contralto soloist in *Slumber Beloved* while, in the tenor role, James Gilchrist was fresh of voice and animated of line.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Felicitous and animated

IF *FIORDILIGI* and *Dora-bella* had been *Lieder* singers... well, they would have been snapped up by the Songmakers' Almanac which, in its 21st birthday year, turned back the pages for a repeat performance of that gloriously speculative evening of witty homage to Mozart and to the female voice.

Graham Johnson has suggested that this, one of his most virtuosic feats of programming, bears a similar relationship to *Cost fan tutte* as Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* does to *Hamlet*. That gives you some idea. But it gives only a hint of the web of verbal and musical cross-reference, the tenderness and the outrageousness with

High, wide and handsome

MAHLER'S Eighth Symphony, the so-called *Symphony of a Thousand*, is monumental, extravagant and bombastic, a work perfectly suited to the conducting style of James Levine. In the last of his three concerts with the Philharmonia Orchestra the American maestro did not disappoint, but he also sprung some pleasant surprises in a taut performance free of cloying emotionalism.

At the opening, Levine took the score's "impetuous" marking to heart, and the music surged along excitedly. Most impressive of all was the right ensemble between the no fewer than five choruses, three

Philharmonia/Levine

Albert Hall children's choirs and orchestra. Banked up high above the platform, the well-drilled singers attacked every phrase as one, even when Levine was less than prodigious with his cues. Both visually and aurally this was an Albert Hall spectacular, with the stage bursting at the seams and the magnificent tuttis underpinned by the unmistakable sound of the organ.

There were a few moments.

believe that there could ever be such devoted sisters in art, be they pointing at each other during some exquisite Schubertian singing exercises, or cooing through sisterly duets by Wolf, Brahms, Mendelssohn and Schumann.

Their own vocal virtuosity was answered by Johnson's and Jackson's respective skills in literary detection, selection and recitation. From Austen and Kipling to Dorothy Parker, Samuel Johnson and D.H. Lawrence they ranged. And Jackson's declamation of Don Alfonso's laconic lines from *Così* found their match in the most deft and daring musical connections in the fingers of Johnson.

HILARY FINCH

JOHN ALLISON

Check out those employee records

By Rodney Hobson

EMPLOYEE records should be spring cleaned when firms reopen after the Christmas break because of impending changes in the law, the Institute of Personnel and Development says.

The publication of the Data Protection Bill is scheduled to take place in January. It will extend the right of employees to have access to written as well as computerised records.

Angela Edward, the institute's policy adviser, says: "Employees will have the right to know what information employers keep on them, how it is used and its relevance to their pay, promotion and prospects."

She says there could be serious financial implications for employers found keeping inaccurate information and advises companies to check that all data is accurate, relevant and valid. The main danger is with information gathered informally, which is more likely to be inaccurate, as it is rarely checked and verified in the same way as formal records.

Arguing that properly processed data is good for business as well as for the employee, she says: "Employers who use out-of-date or inaccurate information to make decisions about training, promotion or career development risk making expensive mistakes. Employers should not keep anything that they may not be able to verify or justify. If you don't want your employee to see it, then you shouldn't keep it."

However, she cautions employers against allowing people to see data that identifies a third party.



"Don't talk to me about having to work Christmas Day!"

Christmas starts early for small businesses

Widget Finn on how festive firms spread the work through the year

For a small enterprise, Christmas starts early. Chantal Tunncliffe is already planning and selling her card designs for the 1998 season. About 95 per cent of her business is Christmas-focused and half the annual turnover is generated from September to December. This year's Christmas trade finished for her on December 15. Next month she will be planning marketing for the next festive season and discussing new lines with her commercial customers.

Five years ago Mrs Tunncliffe heard about Emmaus, an international charity for homeless people, and wanted to help to raise money for her local branch in Cambridge. She offered some artwork which proved highly popular as Christmas cards, and that modest beginning turned her from a self-taught amateur artist into a professional painter and businesswoman.

"The success of the cards for Emmaus made me think that there could be a wider market for my designs," says Mrs Tunncliffe. "So I did a very optimistic initial print run of 5,000 of each of six designs."

Her optimism was justified and the designs — themed around Russian churches — attracted a lot of interest at the Birmingham Spring Gift Fair. There she made her first contacts with other charities and shops, and now supplies cards to several charities including SOS Children's Villages, the National Ecumenical Society, the Dyslexia Association and the Pasture Institute in Paris. She has over a hundred designs in production which are sold to wholesale customers in France, Switzerland, Russia and Canada.

Mrs Tunncliffe handles all the print-buying herself so she can oversee the process. "It's time-consuming, but it means that I get better financial return than simply selling on the designs." That first tentative print run has been well eclipsed. Save the Children Fund ordered 150,000 cards of one design



Angela Hawkins and Dinah Saville with some of the handmade crackers that can be recycled every year

this year, while Emmaus, her first customer, has sold more than 20,000 Tunncliffe cards this season. Charity cards sell for about 8p each, but Mrs Tunncliffe's creations can run to more than £1 each. Turnover in 1997 reached £50,000.

National gift fairs are Mrs Tunncliffe's main market, which means that from early spring she is preparing the Christmas orders. She also takes a stand at the Country Living Christmas fair in November.

"This year's fair was the first where I did more than break even, because I was selling artwork and prints as well as cards," she says. "Cards are so inexpensive that it's impossible to make money selling direct to the public but it's very valuable to talk to customers. I learn which designs are popular and why."

This market research has made Mrs Tunncliffe change the colour schemes of her cards from cool blues and greens to warmer tones. Her current bestselling cards fea-

ture camels on the flight into Egypt. "People like to be reminded of the summer, and heat and foreign holidays," she explains.

Christmas for Angela Hawkins and Dinah Saville starts on January 9 — when they plan their schedule of gift fairs and work out how much stock will be needed. Their business, selling reusable crackers, can justify its claim to be as green as a bunch of holly. "Crackers are an expensive item that are bought by every household in the country — and then thrown away," explains Mrs Hawkins. "We produce handmade crackers in beautiful materials that can easily be reassembled and recycled each year."

The Cracker Maker started three years ago, selling at local charity fairs, but the partners soon decided that London was their main market. Now they sell at national craft fairs and do mail-order sales generated through the considerable publicity they have attracted through magazine editorials. The

partners are looking at extending the selling season with dried flower arrangements and customised crackers for golden weddings and special occasions, but Christmas trading dominates half of the year.

"There's a constant battle to keep up with demand at this time of year," says Angela Hawkins. "Apart from employing students in the summer to build up cracker stocks, it's just the two of us working all hours — which, of course, doesn't come into our pricing structure."

Mrs Hawkins reckons she will be sending out orders "right up until Christmas Eve". Meanwhile Chantal Tunncliffe avoided this final week's frenetic countdown to Christmas. Last orders completed, she escaped abroad to paint and get inspiration for the cards we will be sending in 1998.

Chantal Tunncliffe: phone 01223 247427
The Cracker Maker: phone 01386 802646

Owner managers in UK optimistic about prospects

By Rodney Hobson

OWNER MANAGERS across the European Union have become more optimistic about business prospects for 1998, after two years of declining expectations.

British owner managers lead the way in the optimism stakes while Germany trails badly, according to the sixth annual survey by Grant Thornton, the accountant and business adviser.

Andrew Godfrey, head of growth and development services, said: "The survey shows the expectations of UK firms to be well above the EU average on turnover, employment and, particularly, profitability, which is a good indicator of future performance."

Nearly half of British companies expect to expand their workforce in the next 12 months and three quarters expect turnover to rise.

German firms are not as pessimistic as in previous years but they remain the least optimistic, with many continuing to predict a fall in profitability and employment.

French businesses, which had gloomy expectations for 1997, are looking forward to a brighter year.

On the whole, the optimism is not based on hopes of rising prices. In France and Germany companies believe they will have to cut selling prices.

Mr Godfrey says: "We are witnessing some very positive trends among the UK small to medium enterprises, with increased investment in training, employment and property. On the downside, there is still a gap between the UK and Europe on selling prices, which could lead to competitive problems."

The picture on exports is slightly different. This is one area where the survey does not show greater optimism. Across the EU as a whole, export expectations for 1998 are exactly the same as for 1997 and have not recovered to 1995 levels. In some countries, including the UK, export expectations have continued to slide."

Santa is proving increasingly popular with the business world, the Institute of Trade Mark Agents says. The word Santa has been registered as a trade mark by seven different companies to cover items including toiletries, greetings cards, ornaments, toys for animals and plum puddings. Young Santa, Son of Santa, Santa's Son, Santa Babes, Santa's Big Day, Santa Claws and Santa Claus are already registered as trade marks. Santa and Ruby, Santa's Footprints and Santa's Best are all pending registration.

Banks and financial service companies have the most festive spirit, the Institute of Personnel and Development says. Seven out of ten companies in the sector held Christmas parties, while fewer than one in ten in the construction industry have a get-together at work. In general, the institute says, the smaller the company, the less likely it is to hold an office party.

The annual conference of the Federation of Small Businesses in March will be addressed by

William Hague, the Leader of the Opposition, Barbara Roche, the Small Firms Minister, and Pádraig Flynn, the European Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs.

A free guide for owner managers thinking of selling their businesses has been produced by Deloitte & Touche, the chartered accountant. Copies can be obtained from Rachel Gristock on 0171-303 5040.

The Human Resource Development Week Exhibition is moving to Olympia. The 1998 event, the twelfth, will open on March 31. The Institute of Personnel and Development organises the three-day event.

Venture Capital Report has produced its 1998 *Guide to Private Equity and Venture Capital in the UK and Europe*. Published by Pitman Publishing, the report costs £195.

Lending by Barclays Bank through the Small Firms Training Loans Scheme has topped £1 million.

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

All immediate deviation power to out electricity costs by up to 40%. Manufacturer needs UK & overseas distribution network. High tech product with massive potential. UK Patent 2,242,000. Tel: 01273 220000. Fax: 01273 220001. E-mail: info@220000.co.uk

FINANCE: 200 every 2-4 hrs. 24/7. Tel: 01273 220000. Fax: 01273 220001. E-mail: info@220000.co.uk

LEASING: Company or brokers required to arrange leasing for machinery and equipment for these projects and user. Tel: 01273 220000. Fax: 01273 220001. E-mail: info@220000.co.uk

TELE: Your own business in a new market. Tel: 01273 220000. Fax: 01273 220001. E-mail: info@220000.co.uk

DETECTIVE: Tel: 01709 360166. Fax: 01709 360167. E-mail: info@360166.co.uk

TELE: Your own business in a new market. Tel: 01273 220000. Fax: 01273 220001. E-mail: info@220000.co.uk

TELE: Your own business in a new market. Tel: 01273 220000. Fax: 01273 220001. E-mail: info@220000.co.uk

TELE: Your own business in a new market. Tel: 01273 220000. Fax: 01273 220001. E-mail: info@220000.co.uk

TELE: Your own business in a new market. Tel: 01273 220000. Fax: 01273 220001. E-mail: info@220000.co.uk

TELE: Your own business in a new market. Tel: 01273 220000. Fax: 01273 220001. E-mail: info@220000.co.uk

TELE: Your own business in a new market. Tel: 01273 220000. Fax: 01273 220001. E-mail: info@220000.co.uk

TELE: Your own business in a new market. Tel: 01273 220000. Fax: 01273 220001. E-mail: info@220000.co.uk

TELE: Your own business in a new market. Tel: 01273 220000. Fax: 01273 220001. E-mail: info@220000.co.uk

TELE: Your own business in a new market. Tel: 01273 220000. Fax: 01273 220001. E-mail: info@220000.co.uk

TELE: Your own business in a new market. Tel: 01273 220000. Fax: 01273 220001. E-mail: info@220000.co.uk

TELE: Your own business in a new market. Tel: 01273 220000. Fax: 01273 220001. E-mail: info@220000.co.uk

TELE: Your own business in a new market. Tel: 01273 220000. Fax: 01273 220001. E-mail: info@220000.co.uk

TELE: Your own business in a new market. Tel: 01273 220000. Fax: 01273 220001. E-mail: info@220000.co.uk

TELE: Your own business in a new market. Tel: 01273 220000. Fax: 01273 220001. E-mail: info@220000.co.uk

TELE: Your own business in a new market. Tel: 01273 220000. Fax: 01273 220001. E-mail: info@220000.co.uk

TELE: Your own business in a new market. Tel: 01273 220000. Fax: 01273 220001. E-mail: info@220000.co.uk

BUSINESS SERVICES

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

DISCREET SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT RENTS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Tel: 0181 338 4226. Fax: 0181 558 1338. E-mail: info@1338.co.uk

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Tel: 0181 338 422

LAW

● NEXT WEEK: DAVID PANNICK
REVIEWS THE YEAR



Why are lawyers so disliked? Jim Carrey in the Hollywood comedy *Liar, Liar*, plays up to the popular image as the lawyer/liar of the title

Everyone loathes a lawyer

Making the legal profession more popular could prove daunting for Labour, says Fiona Bawdon

At the end of his apocalyptic speech to the Law Society conference in October, Lord Irvine of Lairg noted that the legal profession had fallen lower and lower in public estimation in recent years. One of his aims as Lord Chancellor was to see lawyers being held in the same affection as nurses. His "new regime" — of replacing legal aid with conditional fees in all civil money claims — "should go a long way to heighten the public standing of lawyers".

Loathing and suspicion of lawyers has a long pedigree. In 321 BC, Plato wrote that a lawyer's "soul is small and unrighteous... from the first he has practised deception and retaliation and become stunted and warped". Such sentiments would fit nicely into a *Daily Mail* leader.

Other notables who have put the boot into lawyers include (in no particular order) Shakespeare, Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Johnson, Samuel Butler, Jonathan Swift, Thomas Jefferson, John Keats, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Oscar Wilde and Dan Quayle.

For all his fine words, Lord Irvine and his officials are not above tapping into popular dislike of lawyers when it suits them. When Downing Street officials leaked the contents of Lord Irvine's speech, presumably to ensure a favourable reception, the proposals were presented as a much-needed brake on runaway lawyers. While the broadsheets were more sceptical (pointing out that the cuts might also clobber the poor), the tabloids found the chance to engage in lawyer-bashing too good to

miss. The *Sun's* headline ran: "Curb on lawyers' legal aid rip-off". The *Express* wrote of plans to "halt the legal aid gravy train for lawyers" and the *Daily Mail* leader concluded: "Inevitably, the legal profession is already squealing at Lord Irvine's initiative. For that reason alone, he deserves to succeed."

These papers knew their coverage would strike a chord with their readers, but just why are lawyers so unpopular? Marcel Berlins, a writer and broadcaster, says it is partly because of the circumstances in which most people go to see them. "On the whole, they are there when you are in trouble of some kind. They are seen as parasites feeding off other people's disasters." He adds that much of the opprobrium is self-inflicted. "People tend to come out of studying the law more pompous than when they went in," he says. "I have seen friends of mine go in quite normal people and come out making Latin quips and terrible laboured jokes. They develop a bedside manner of superiority and arrogance."

A bedside manner that can continue even when they are off duty. A friend's family holiday was blighted by the constant braying of a barrister, holding forth over dinner that he did not want to be

made a judge just yet because he could not live on less than the £250,000 he was earning. "He stopped talking to me when he found out I was only a graphic designer," he recalls.

Roger Smith, director of the Legal Action Group, however, insists that dislike of lawyers here is as nothing compared with the United States. "I don't think there is a visceral hatred of lawyers in this country," he says. The attitude of the British is more ambivalent. "Lawyers are seen as boring but basically trustworthy. If the Government is in a hole, it will appoint a lawyer to sort it out," he says, citing the Scott and Nolan reports.

People feel able to demonise them as they wish

Mr Smith fears that the extension of conditional fees, far from improving their standing, as Lord Irvine claims — will create a climate more akin to that in America. Mr Smith explains: "Lawyers will be seen as being paid above what is reasonable. What starts off as an attack on lawyers will end up as an attack on the integrity of the justice system."

Greater use of conditional fees is predicted to lead to more advertising by lawyers — and, in America, there is evidence that the more lawyers advertise, the more they are distrusted. A study in Iowa found that after lawyers began advertising on TV, the pro-

portion of people who thought they were honourable fell from 65 per cent to 14 per cent.

Yet leaving aside the impact of advertising, many of the criticisms now levied at lawyers could apply equally to other professions, which — with the exception of estate agents and journalists — are not generally disliked.

In a 1995 Law Society study of people's attitudes towards different professions, doctors came top across all categories. Yet doctors can be just as arrogant (ask any nurse) and use just as much jargon (ask any patient).

They are also open to accusations of treating clients/patients as little more than money-making opportunities. The headline of one article in the medical magazine *Financial Pulse* earlier this year was: "Travel vaccines — broaden your earnings. Dr Mike Townsend explains how GPs can take advantage of patients' trips to exotic destinations." The same issue also gave advice on how to boost vaccination levels and so trigger payments for "meeting targets."

As a last resort, it might even be worth giving the immunisation at home if it means hitting the target — surely this is ambulance-chasing by another name? This practice could generate up to £3,700 from an effective annual influenza vaccination campaign. Imagine the field day the tabloids would have if lawyers were writing in such terms.

Right way to deter civil wrongdoers

When courts award damages, the aim is usually to compensate the victim's loss. But this is not always so. Sometimes damages are awarded to punish the wrongdoer. These are known as "punitive" (or "exemplary") damages. Last week the Law Commission, the Government's law reform body, published a report and draft Bill for the reform of the law on punitive damages. The law in this area badly needs to be rationalised and modernised. As one senior judge has put it, the present law "cries aloud for parliamentary intervention". Almost everyone who responded to our consultation paper agreed.

There are arbitrary and illogical restrictions on when punitive damages may be awarded. The leading case of *Rookes v Barnard* in 1964 stated that unless expressly authorised by statute, punitive damages can be awarded in only two categories of case. One is where there has been oppressive, arbitrary or unconstitutional wrongdoing by a servant of the Government; and the other is where the wrongdoer has committed the wrong cynically calculating that it would be profitable to do so.

In 1993, the Court of Appeal in the *Camelford* water case added a further peculiar requirement even if a case falls within the above two categories, punitive damages can be awarded only if they had been awarded for that particular wrong before 1964 (that is, before *Rookes v Barnard* was decided). This means that wrongs developed since 1964 (such as sex or race discrimination) cannot trigger an award of punitive damages; and wrongs recognised before 1964 cannot either, if one cannot trace a case (perhaps because of the accidents of law reporting) in which punitive damages were awarded for that wrong before 1964.

Nor can the two categories be rationally defended. Why should a private store detective who maliciously falsely "arrests" an alleged shoplifter be immune from punitive damages, when a police officer, who does exactly the same, is not? Why should it make all the difference, as regards the availability of punitive damages, whether or not a person who physically attacks another was paid to do so, or whether an author libels a person for profit rather than simply out of malice?

But though it is widely accepted that reform is needed, responses to our consultation paper revealed very different views as to the path reform should take. One view is that rationalisation demands the abolition of punitive damages, leaving punishment as the sole preserve of the criminal law.

The other main view, and the one we on the commission ultimately found persuasive, is to preserve punitive damages while putting them on a clear, principled and tightly controlled basis. Consultants impressed on us that to remove punitive damages would be to take away, for no good reason, a weapon in the judicial armoury that can be useful in fighting a wide range of outrageous wrongful conduct, including fraud, abuse of police power, infringement of health and safety standards, environmental pollution, and sex and race discrimination.

The Law Commission report therefore recommends to the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, a detailed statutory scheme to put punitive damages on a clear, principled and tightly controlled footing, in which judges would make the awards, not juries as now.

The three central elements of that scheme follow: that punitive damages would be available for a civil wrong (other than breach of contract) if the wrongdoer has deliberately and outrageously disregarded the victim's rights; the decision to award punitive damages, and their amount, would be matters for judges to decide; even where a civil trial is otherwise by jury, these matters would never be decided by a jury; and third, punitive damages would be a "last resort" remedy, which should not be awarded where another available remedy is adequate punishment and should not usually be awarded where the wrongdoer has been convicted of a criminal offence for the same conduct. We also recommend the replacement of some outdated technical rules. For example, we suggest a diametrically opposite approach to the present law on the survival of claims to punitive damages, so that the claim would survive in favour of a deceased victim's estate, but would not survive against a deceased wrongdoer's estate.

The commission believes that these reforms, if implemented by Parliament, would enable the civil justice system to play a proper role, alongside the criminal law, in punishing and deterring serious wrongdoing. At the same time, they would ensure that there is no risk of English law trading the American path of easily available, and exorbitant, punitive awards.

Professor Burrows is a Law Commissioner. Aggravated, Exemplary and Restitutionary Damages, Law Commission Report No 247, is published by the Stationery Office (£18.50). The text of the report is available on the Internet at the commission's Website:

<http://www.gtnet.gov.uk/law/comms/homepage.htm>



ANDREW BURROWS

From bad to worse

AS IF the Government was not getting enough flak over benefits reform, the Council on Tribunals — chaired by Lord Archer of Sandwell, Solicitor-General in the last Labour Government — has attacked plans to shake up the benefits appeals system.

In its annual report, the council says that the new Social Security Bill, which will mean that benefits appeals will be heard by a single person and not a tribunal of three chaired by a lawyer, could mean a reversion to the old "unsatisfactory" system.

The new appeals body will be made up of a panel of experts. "As a result," the council says, "some appeals may in future be decided by tribunals constituted as only one person, not necessarily with legal training." The council is strongly critical of the plans, which remove from appellants the right to a hearing before a tribunal of three chaired by a lawyer, all of whom "bring a wealth of expertise and experience... The effect of the other reforms in the Bill, aimed at removing errors and delays in benefits deci-

INS AND OUTS

sions, should be assessed before other changes are contemplated."

Out of court
PEOPLE with disputes before the Court of Appeal are being encouraged to resolve them outside court under a pilot scheme launched by the Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf.



Lambey: off Death Row

Freedom for Corinne

CORINNE LAMBHEY, 19, has just been acquitted of murder and released from Death Row in Belize, after the efforts of Freedom Now. She is the third young prisoner released this year after help by the group, which has campaigned for ten years to help Britons facing miscarriages of justice abroad, particularly those on Death Row.

The "group" in fact comprises Andrew McCooey, a Kent solicitor, with help from Edward Fitzgerald, QC. The work is all *pro bono* public. Now the group is seeking charitable status.

ing parties and the court to find ways of resolving cases without a hearing before the Court of Appeal."

Such out-of-court dispute resolution could provide a "cheaper, quicker and more satisfactory solution for the parties than a court hearing".

Two views
THE publication by the Law Society last week of its blueprint for a self-financing legal aid fund based on the "no win, no fee" principle has highlighted differences in the approaches of the profession's two branches towards the Government's reform plans.

The Bar Council is continuing to press for a contingency legal aid fund which, it says, would render unnecessary proposals to replace legal aid with conditional fees for most money claims. The Law Society has made a conscious effort to be more accommodating. It has calculated that it is simply unrealistic to expect the Government to back down completely and is trying to persuade the Government that the Legal Aid Board — not lawyers — should stump up the conditional-fee insurance premiums for people who cannot afford them.

SCRIVENER

STUART & FRANCIS

QUEEN'S COUNSEL



LEGAL ADVISOR - PROPERTY



English Welsh & Scottish Railway

Islington

English Welsh & Scottish Railway is Britain's leading rail freight operator. It is a forward-looking and dynamic company with ambitious plans for increasing rail's share of the freight market. EWS is looking for an enthusiastic and motivated person to play a role in this rail freight revival.

We require a Legal Advisor to work within our Property Department. Applicants should possess a law degree and have at least two years post qualification commercial property experience (incorporating development and construction). The post is for a lawyer but commerce or accounting experience is essential since the role involves business development.

Relevant experience and business contacts in Australia/ New Zealand are essential as the role will involve management of properties and advice to associated companies in Australia and New Zealand. It is anticipated that the Legal Advisor will relocate to Australia/ New Zealand to manage EWS's property interests, therefore appropriate experience is essential.

The successful applicant will need to comply with EWS's policy on drugs and alcohol.

If you are interested in the post please write, including a full CV to:

Liz Jones
Recruitment and Assessment Centre Manager
English Welsh & Scottish Railway Ltd
PO Box 34, Denison House North
DONCASTER DN4 0EL

Closing date for applications is Monday 5th January 1998.

TO ADVERTISE CALL
0171 680 6828

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

FAX:
0171 782 7899

cameron mckenna

relax

You've probably seen the advertisements we've run in the last couple of months. We've certainly been pleased with the response and want more. But it's Christmas now. Time to put your feet up and recharge your batteries. We all deserve a rest. That's why this year we've given everyone at Cameron McKenna an extra day off.

Advertising again in the
contact with us then.
session based on fixed
skills are recognised

Cameron McKenna
Mitre House
160 Aldersgate Street
London EC1A 4DD

LONDON ABERDEEN BRISTOL BRUSSELS BUDAPEST PRAGUE WARSAW MOSCOW ALMATY TASHKENT HONG KONG WASHINGTON (ASSOCIATED OFFICE)

For further information in complete confidence, please contact: Stephen Rothery or William Cook on 0171 405 6062 (0171 354 3099) or write to them at Quarry Douglas Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EJ. Confidential fax 0171 831 6394.

International Tax Advisers

Puzzle? Where next?

If the direction your career is taking is puzzling you, spend some time at Christmas thinking about what your next move should be.

Whether you are a lawyer or an accountant in either a legal or an accountancy practice, we want you to think about a career in tax with one of the City's most prestigious international law firms.

So what can we offer that is different?

Linklaters is consistently involved in creative and high quality tax work. Since we advise on so many leading edge transactions, you will often be the lead tax adviser on a deal, working alongside colleagues of the highest calibre in the corporate securities and financing sectors.

Also an increasing proportion of our team's work is self-generated and tax-led, which means we often take the leading role and drive a transaction forward with support as required from other departments.

We have a reputation as one of the youngest and most ambitious – tax departments in the City. We have opportunities for secondment to our corporate clients and our overseas offices, including the USA and the Far East.

You might be a junior and seeking quality international tax experience, or more senior and seeking a greater challenge.

Either way we would like to hear from you.

So whilst we do not want you to tax your brains too much over the holiday period, think about whether it is time for a change.



For further information in complete confidence, please contact Adrian Fox or Kate Sutcliffe on 0171 405 6062 (0171 286 1441, 01926 812486 or 0856 589203 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglas Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EJ. Confidential fax 0171 831 6394.

LINKLATERS

CHAMBERS

BANKING & FINANCE

23 LONG LANE LONDON EC1A 9HL TEL: 0171-606 8844 (FAX: 0171-600 1793)

Happy Christmas

European Investment Bank

to £80,000

Exponential expansion through acquisition, organic growth and a highly focused business strategy have been key to the success of this European investment house.

The legal department now requires a senior lawyer (5 years' ppe) to manage a small team. Suitable candidates will have experience of a range of secondary market products, including derivative and repo documentation, gained in private practice or another bank. Proven management skills or at least an aptitude would clearly be an advantage. Quality of life is a respected concept in this exceptionally well run department.

Investment Management

£ Excellent package

Our client is a premier investment management group whose interests encompass investment trusts, unit trusts and offshore funds.

Due to a marked increase in business, the legal department has a requirement for a junior lawyer (1-2 years' ppe). The role will have two aspects. First as a specialist advising on a range of funds and specific products across all institutional and retail investment management areas. Secondly as a generalist advising on company/commercial issues as they affect the group. Prior exposure to investment management issues would, of course, be advantageous.

Christmas is a natural 'pause' to contemplate the direction your career will take in the New Year. Is partnership really what you aspire to? Are there more interesting and fulfilling roles in-house? Should you look at the options available to you? More often than not candidates are surprised by the variety of opportunities which exist in banking/finance. If you would welcome the chance to talk to us on a fact finding basis we will be delighted to give you constructive career advice.

Chambers Banking & Finance recruit lawyers into banks and other financial institutions. For further information or for career advice, please ring Deborah Kirkman or Stuart Morton on 0171 606 8844. Confidentiality is assured.

WELL HERE IT IS - MERRY CHRISTMAS !!

CORPORATE

To £35,000
Don't hesitate - if you have just qualified and are feeling unhappy, this top 20 City firm is leading the way, with its excellent London office at the top. You will be given the chance to take a big step up if you are a quality person lawyer at any level of qualification. Ref: T19458

PENSIONS

To Partnership
As human resources becomes a key element of top practices everywhere, this national firm is leading the way, with its excellent London office at the top. You will be given the chance to take a big step up if you are a quality person lawyer at any level of qualification. Ref: T19458

PROJECT FINANCE

To £85,000
Top dollar, real responsibility, the biggest deals, lots of travel, a casual office atmosphere and career prospects - yes, a law firm like this does exist, and the London office of this top 5 US firm can make it come true for project finance lawyers with 2-4 years' ppe. Ref: T24056

TAX

To £60,000
If the tax demands of property work are your thing, you could not do better than this top 10 firm, which has built its successful practice on the back of property. This could be the move that sends your career on a steep upwards curve if you have 1-4 years' ppe. Ref: T19683

IP

To £47,000
Join one of the most exciting start-ups in the City in recent years and your career will enjoy the same characteristics. You need 1-3 years' ppe in IP/TM, including knowledge of copyright, data protection, trademarks, patents, confidentiality and rights in databases, as well as experience of key IT transactions. Ref: T38386

IP/TM

To £100,000
You will probably join the well-known IP practice of this leading medium-sized City firm as or near junior partner level if you can show 6-8 years' ppe in IP work with an emphasis on IT matters. A lot of contentious and non-contentious experience, and a small following would help. Ref: T29224

CONSTRUCTION

To £46,000
Big to certainly beat when it comes to the kind of training and career development on offer at top 10 firms such as this one. It will give construction lawyers with 2-4 years' ppe (perhaps from abroad) the chance to lay foundations for a secure future. The work is mostly non-contentious. Ref: T21857

CORPORATE TAX

To £150,000
You will probably join this leading medium-sized City firm as head of tax, if you can show 4-6 years' ppe. The work will encompass all types of domestic and international transactions, property taxation, VAT and stamp duties. Good communication and marketing skills also vital to take advantage of this outstanding opportunity. Ref: T44428

PROPERTY

To £50,000
As if the top training and career development on offer at this top 10 City firm was not enough for most commercial property lawyers with 0-4 years' ppe, then the superb salary package should convince you there are few, if any, better moves for young lawyers looking to make their way in the City. Ref: T6594

COMPETITION

To £65,000
The dual experience you will gain from working in Brussels and from working at the local office of a top 10 City firm will undoubtedly guarantee you a secure and prosperous future at the top of the competition law field if you are a quality lawyer with 2-4 years' ppe. Ref: T26479

CORPORATE

To £70,000
This is a firm that punches well above its size both in terms of the clients and the lawyers it attracts. It reflects the firm's reputation as a top quality employer and legal adviser. If you want to be a mainstream corporate lawyer with 0-5 years' ppe and enjoy it, do it here. Ref: T25282

FUNDS/PSA

To £50,000
Involvement in investment management work spells the big time for City lawyers nowadays, as it is one of the most rapidly expanding specialties. This market-leading medium-sized practice can help you take full advantage if you are a funds, PSA or even corporate lawyer with 0-5 years' ppe. Superb pay. Ref: T39812

EMERGING MARKETS

To £140,000
Move in-house and into one of the most interesting, wide-ranging and well-paid of areas by joining this leading international finance house to work with its cutting-edge emerging markets team. Relevant experience is not necessary, but you do need 5+ years' ppe in corporate, finance or tax work. Ref: T45864

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

To £46,000
You will immediately take on a visible and responsible role in the property department of this top 25 City firm. The work will be varied, but the firm specialises in the acquisition, development and sale of commercial and large-scale residential sites. Good rewards if you can show 1-3 years' ppe. Ref: T26905



For further information, in complete confidence, please contact: Nick Peacock, Adrian Fox or Seamus Heer (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0171-228 0476 or 0171-286 1441 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglas Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EJ. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394.

LONDON • BIRMINGHAM • LEEDS • MANCHESTER • HONG KONG • PARIS • NEW YORK • STONEY • MELBOURNE • AMSTERDAM • TORONTO • VANCOUVER

COMPANY COMMERCIAL LAWYER

2-3 Years PQE

An exciting medium-sized West End firm of solicitors with a multi-qualified company commercial lawyer with 2-3 years post-qualification experience. The firm has a top profile, a reputation as a generalist, property, company, commercial and insurance work and its company commercial department has a wide international client base. The successful candidate will be a proactive, energetic and a good team player. He/she should have wide experience of all aspects of company commercial work, particularly commercial contracts, employment law, intellectual property, company law and sale and purchase of companies. A foreign language would be highly desirable. Please send your CV and references to Mr Neil Smith of Palmer Green, 10 Bedford Street, London W1T 2AE.

PRACTICE AND LT. MANAGER

Dynamic three partner Solicitors firm based in South London. Kent seeks a Practice Manager with 1-2 years experience. Salary and benefits according to age and experience. Apply in writing with CV to: S.M. Hinds, PricewaterhouseCoopers, St. Bridge's House, 32 High Street, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 1AY.

RETIRED JUDGE/ BARRISTER

qualified for some advice. Write: Single to Box No 2312, Brighton, BN2 7SD.

LEADING THE COUNTRY...
firm needs QUALIFIED REAL-
TIME COURT REPORTERS who
will be able to undertake
for major trials. Training is
available for talented and real-
time stenographers. Contact
Sally Whitty, Smith, Brown
Reporters Limited, Tel. 0171-
437-4047

هكذا من الضمير

Chris McGrath meets a jockey sticking to his Hennessy winner for Kempton glory Bradley rides high on ageless talent

The big grey horse galloped towards the fence, hesitated and changed his mind. Needing an extra stride, he suddenly soared towards the top of the fence. Somehow, he cleared it, on landing, however, he crumpled steeply. Across the nation, betting slips bearing the favourite's name were likewise crumpled and flung bitterly to ground.

The long arm of the laws of gravity had Graham Bradley by the neck, forcing him inexorably towards the cramped, sticky turf. He pitched over the horse's shoulder, braced for the pain. Then, because he is a jockey of whom some have long used the word "genius" without the slightest discomfort, he stuck out a hand to where the reins were slung over the horse's right ear.

At the same time, his mount straightened up with a jolt. Bradley found the reins back in his grip, his boots in the trons, the horse still in the vanguard of the Hennessy Gold Cup field as they approached the fifth fence. In the betting shops, disbelieving punters began rifling anxiously through the bins.

Sunny Bay went on to win the autumn's biggest steeplechase by 13 lengths. That adhesive partnership is resumed at Kempton on Boxing Day, in the Pertemps King George VI Chase. At 37, there is a valedictory edge to every big victory Bradley can conjure — but his singular and accomplished talent is already preserved in many memories, moments such as the fourth fence at Newbury.

That split-second condensed mood that has become familiar during the past 15 years: the man's propensity for finding himself in a spot, and his intuitive flair for getting out of one. In his time, Bradley has given the mendacious and ignorant the opportunity to picture him as incorrigible, lawless.

In his younger days, he had problems with the stewards. Happily, the serene figure he has cut so conspicuously this season has never met any slander halfway. He is thoughtful, affectionate and true, utterly lacking in arrogance.

It was difficult to say the same last season of Andrew Cohen, Sunny Bay's owner, after he decided that the stable jockey was unlucky in his colours. Replaced by Jamie Osborne in the Grand National, Bradley considered retirement. It is as well for Cohen, principal patron to the Charlie Brooks yard at Lambourn, that he persevered. At least Cohen had the grace to restore Bradley when Osborne was injured in November, but the horse should not have been alone in falling to his knees at the fourth fence in the Hennessy.



Bradley relaxes in the comfort of his Sparsholt home before riding Sunny Bay in the King George VI Chase at Kempton Park on Boxing Day

Jockeys get used to such treatment and Bradley tends not to dignify it by fretting. "I've had a lot of jobs in my career," the Yorkshireman said. "I still ride for every trainer that's ever employed me. I've always believed in myself. I've never done anything untoward. I was pulling all the way. At Haydock [on his reappearance] he was incredible, over three miles on good ground. In fact, he was too free, too fresh. He kept galloping into the bottom of fences and springing his knee, and got close to

worried about it. I'm a very honest person in life."

Nonetheless, he allowed himself to become disheartened last winter. "I love everyone at Uplands, after six years. But it just didn't feel the same going in, having lost the ride on the stable star. Now I'm back with a spring in my step, loving it."

The revival has been shared by Sunny Bay, "a slow old plodder" two years ago. "But when I rode him for the first time at home this year — where usually you have to push him along — he was pulling all the way. At Haydock [on his reappearance] he was incredible, over three miles on good ground. In fact, he was too free, too fresh. He kept galloping into the bottom of fences and springing his knee, and got close to

light — Wayward Lad was the same. He never got the trip in the Gold Cup at Cheltenham, but was able to win three King Georges. Yes, One Man will take a hell of a lot of beating. But whether he has ever beaten anything as good as Sunny Bay, I don't know. My only worry is that some of Charlie's horses have not been right, though Sunny Bay is out in a field. I do think him potentially a Gold Cup winner."

It is 14 years since Bradley won the Gold Cup on Bregawn, but do not be deceived by the grey in his hair. It is no more a token of weariness than in the coats of those exuberant jumpers who join issue on Boxing Day.

Bradley reasoned: "One Man's obviously a very good horse, but he goes out like a

'I've always believed in myself. I've never done anything untoward. I'm a very honest person'

several." The fourth at Newbury then became a defining moment — both for Sunny Bay's coming of age, and his rider's ageless talent. That Bradley is performing

Dwyer forced into retirement after year on sidelines

MARK DWYER, the dual Gold Cup-winning jockey, has announced his retirement from the saddle after spending a year on the sidelines.

The 34-year-old Irishman, who rode more than 800 winners, suffered a compound fracture of his left elbow in a fall from In Good Faith at Kelso last December and, despite two operations and numerous hours of physiotherapy since, his arm is still not right.

Dwyer met Dr Michael Turner, the Jockey Club's chief medical advisor, yesterday and said afterwards: "That is it, I have packed up. Basically, I am fit enough to ride but not fit enough to fall — that is the top and bottom of it. And you cannot carry on like that."

Dwyer, who has a thriving livery yard near Malton, North Yorkshire, quashed suggestions that he would

switch to training. "It is not a consideration at the moment, though one day I might think about taking out a permit to train a few of my own."

Dwyer, who rode his first winner, Colneagh Emperor, at Limerick in 1979, went on to become a leading apprentice on the Flat in Ireland before increasing weight forced him to switch to jumping. He joined Jimmy Fitzgerald at Malton in the autumn of 1982.

In 1985, Dwyer won the Cheltenham Gold Cup on Forgive N Forget for Fitzgerald, and in 1993 he followed up on the Peter Beaumont-trained Jodami, on whom he also won the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Leopardstown three times.

Dwyer's long list of big-race victories includes the Champion Hurdle on Flakely Dove in 1994, and two Scottish Nationals on Androma in 1984 and 1985.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Ludlow

Going: good
12.40 (2m) 1. STAGE PASS (R. Fennell, 12.1), 2. Haze (G. Gray, 12.3), 3. Midea (A. McCoy, 12.4), 4. LEO (R. Fennell, 12.5), 5. Midea (A. McCoy, 12.6), 6. LEO (R. Fennell, 12.7), 7. Midea (A. McCoy, 12.8), 8. LEO (R. Fennell, 12.9), 9. Midea (A. McCoy, 13.0), 10. LEO (R. Fennell, 13.1), 11. Midea (A. McCoy, 13.2), 12. LEO (R. Fennell, 13.3), 13. Midea (A. McCoy, 13.4), 14. LEO (R. Fennell, 13.5), 15. Midea (A. McCoy, 13.6), 16. LEO (R. Fennell, 13.7), 17. Midea (A. McCoy, 13.8), 18. LEO (R. Fennell, 13.9), 19. Midea (A. McCoy, 14.0), 20. LEO (R. Fennell, 14.1), 21. Midea (A. McCoy, 14.2), 22. LEO (R. Fennell, 14.3), 23. Midea (A. McCoy, 14.4), 24. LEO (R. Fennell, 14.5), 25. Midea (A. McCoy, 14.6), 26. LEO (R. Fennell, 14.7), 27. Midea (A. McCoy, 14.8), 28. LEO (R. Fennell, 14.9), 29. Midea (A. McCoy, 15.0), 30. LEO (R. Fennell, 15.1), 31. Midea (A. McCoy, 15.2), 32. LEO (R. Fennell, 15.3), 33. Midea (A. McCoy, 15.4), 34. LEO (R. Fennell, 15.5), 35. Midea (A. McCoy, 15.6), 36. LEO (R. Fennell, 15.7), 37. Midea (A. McCoy, 15.8), 38. LEO (R. Fennell, 15.9), 39. Midea (A. McCoy, 16.0), 40. LEO (R. Fennell, 16.1), 41. Midea (A. McCoy, 16.2), 42. LEO (R. Fennell, 16.3), 43. Midea (A. McCoy, 16.4), 44. LEO (R. Fennell, 16.5), 45. Midea (A. McCoy, 16.6), 46. LEO (R. Fennell, 16.7), 47. Midea (A. McCoy, 16.8), 48. LEO (R. Fennell, 16.9), 49. Midea (A. McCoy, 17.0), 50. LEO (R. Fennell, 17.1), 51. Midea (A. McCoy, 17.2), 52. LEO (R. Fennell, 17.3), 53. Midea (A. McCoy, 17.4), 54. LEO (R. Fennell, 17.5), 55. Midea (A. McCoy, 17.6), 56. LEO (R. Fennell, 17.7), 57. Midea (A. McCoy, 17.8), 58. LEO (R. Fennell, 17.9), 59. Midea (A. McCoy, 18.0), 60. LEO (R. Fennell, 18.1), 61. Midea (A. McCoy, 18.2), 62. LEO (R. Fennell, 18.3), 63. Midea (A. McCoy, 18.4), 64. LEO (R. Fennell, 18.5), 65. Midea (A. McCoy, 18.6), 66. LEO (R. Fennell, 18.7), 67. Midea (A. McCoy, 18.8), 68. LEO (R. Fennell, 18.9), 69. Midea (A. McCoy, 19.0), 70. LEO (R. Fennell, 19.1), 71. Midea (A. McCoy, 19.2), 72. LEO (R. Fennell, 19.3), 73. Midea (A. McCoy, 19.4), 74. LEO (R. Fennell, 19.5), 75. Midea (A. McCoy, 19.6), 76. LEO (R. Fennell, 19.7), 77. Midea (A. McCoy, 19.8), 78. LEO (R. Fennell, 19.9), 79. Midea (A. McCoy, 20.0), 80. LEO (R. Fennell, 20.1), 81. Midea (A. McCoy, 20.2), 82. LEO (R. Fennell, 20.3), 83. Midea (A. McCoy, 20.4), 84. LEO (R. Fennell, 20.5), 85. Midea (A. McCoy, 20.6), 86. LEO (R. Fennell, 20.7), 87. Midea (A. McCoy, 20.8), 88. LEO (R. Fennell, 20.9), 89. Midea (A. McCoy, 21.0), 90. LEO (R. Fennell, 21.1), 91. Midea (A. McCoy, 21.2), 92. LEO (R. Fennell, 21.3), 93. Midea (A. McCoy, 21.4), 94. LEO (R. Fennell, 21.5), 95. Midea (A. McCoy, 21.6), 96. LEO (R. Fennell, 21.7), 97. Midea (A. McCoy, 21.8), 98. LEO (R. Fennell, 21.9), 99. Midea (A. McCoy, 22.0), 100. LEO (R. Fennell, 22.1), 101. Midea (A. McCoy, 22.2), 102. LEO (R. Fennell, 22.3), 103. Midea (A. McCoy, 22.4), 104. LEO (R. Fennell, 22.5), 105. Midea (A. McCoy, 22.6), 106. LEO (R. Fennell, 22.7), 107. Midea (A. McCoy, 22.8), 108. LEO (R. Fennell, 22.9), 109. Midea (A. McCoy, 23.0), 110. LEO (R. Fennell, 23.1), 111. Midea (A. McCoy, 23.2), 112. LEO (R. Fennell, 23.3), 113. Midea (A. McCoy, 23.4), 114. LEO (R. Fennell, 23.5), 115. Midea (A. McCoy, 23.6), 116. LEO (R. Fennell, 23.7), 117. Midea (A. McCoy, 23.8), 118. LEO (R. Fennell, 23.9), 119. Midea (A. McCoy, 24.0), 120. LEO (R. Fennell, 24.1), 121. Midea (A. McCoy, 24.2), 122. LEO (R. Fennell, 24.3), 123. Midea (A. McCoy, 24.4), 124. LEO (R. Fennell, 24.5), 125. Midea (A. McCoy, 24.6), 126. LEO (R. Fennell, 24.7), 127. Midea (A. McCoy, 24.8), 128. LEO (R. Fennell, 24.9), 129. Midea (A. McCoy, 25.0), 130. LEO (R. Fennell, 25.1), 131. Midea (A. McCoy, 25.2), 132. LEO (R. Fennell, 25.3), 133. Midea (A. McCoy, 25.4), 134. LEO (R. Fennell, 25.5), 135. Midea (A. McCoy, 25.6), 136. LEO (R. Fennell, 25.7), 137. Midea (A. McCoy, 25.8), 138. LEO (R. Fennell, 25.9), 139. Midea (A. McCoy, 26.0), 140. LEO (R. Fennell, 26.1), 141. Midea (A. McCoy, 26.2), 142. LEO (R. Fennell, 26.3), 143. Midea (A. McCoy, 26.4), 144. LEO (R. Fennell, 26.5), 145. Midea (A. McCoy, 26.6), 146. LEO (R. Fennell, 26.7), 147. Midea (A. McCoy, 26.8), 148. LEO (R. Fennell, 26.9), 149. Midea (A. McCoy, 27.0), 150. LEO (R. Fennell, 27.1), 151. Midea (A. McCoy, 27.2), 152. LEO (R. Fennell, 27.3), 153. Midea (A. McCoy, 27.4), 154. LEO (R. Fennell, 27.5), 155. Midea (A. McCoy, 27.6), 156. LEO (R. Fennell, 27.7), 157. Midea (A. McCoy, 27.8), 158. LEO (R. Fennell, 27.9), 159. Midea (A. McCoy, 28.0), 160. LEO (R. Fennell, 28.1), 161. Midea (A. McCoy, 28.2), 162. LEO (R. Fennell, 28.3), 163. Midea (A. McCoy, 28.4), 164. LEO (R. Fennell, 28.5), 165. Midea (A. McCoy, 28.6), 166. LEO (R. Fennell, 28.7), 167. Midea (A. McCoy, 28.8), 168. LEO (R. Fennell, 28.9), 169. Midea (A. McCoy, 29.0), 170. LEO (R. Fennell, 29.1), 171. Midea (A. McCoy, 29.2), 172. LEO (R. Fennell, 29.3), 173. Midea (A. McCoy, 29.4), 174. LEO (R. Fennell, 29.5), 175. Midea (A. McCoy, 29.6), 176. LEO (R. Fennell, 29.7), 177. Midea (A. McCoy, 29.8), 178. LEO (R. Fennell, 29.9), 179. Midea (A. McCoy, 30.0), 180. LEO (R. Fennell, 30.1), 181. Midea (A. McCoy, 30.2), 182. LEO (R. Fennell, 30.3), 183. Midea (A. McCoy, 30.4), 184. LEO (R. Fennell, 30.5), 185. Midea (A. McCoy, 30.6), 186. LEO (R. Fennell, 30.7), 187. Midea (A. McCoy, 30.8), 188. LEO (R. Fennell, 30.9), 189. Midea (A. McCoy, 31.0), 190. LEO (R. Fennell, 31.1), 191. Midea (A. McCoy, 31.2), 192. LEO (R. Fennell, 31.3), 193. Midea (A. McCoy, 31.4), 194. LEO (R. Fennell, 31.5), 195. Midea (A. McCoy, 31.6), 196. LEO (R. Fennell, 31.7), 197. Midea (A. McCoy, 31.8), 198. LEO (R. Fennell, 31.9), 199. Midea (A. McCoy, 32.0), 200. LEO (R. Fennell, 32.1), 201. Midea (A. McCoy, 32.2), 202. LEO (R. Fennell, 32.3), 203. Midea (A. McCoy, 32.4), 204. LEO (R. Fennell, 32.5), 205. Midea (A. McCoy, 32.6), 206. LEO (R. Fennell, 32.7), 207. Midea (A. McCoy, 32.8), 208. LEO (R. Fennell, 32.9), 209. Midea (A. McCoy, 33.0), 210. LEO (R. Fennell, 33.1), 211. Midea (A. McCoy, 33.2), 212. LEO (R. Fennell, 33.3), 213. Midea (A. McCoy, 33.4), 214. LEO (R. Fennell, 33.5), 215. Midea (A. McCoy, 33.6), 216. LEO (R. Fennell, 33.7), 217. Midea (A. McCoy, 33.8), 218. LEO (R. Fennell, 33.9), 219. Midea (A. McCoy, 34.0), 220. LEO (R. Fennell, 34.1), 221. Midea (A. McCoy, 34.2), 222. LEO (R. Fennell, 34.3), 223. Midea (A. McCoy, 34.4), 224. LEO (R. Fennell, 34.5), 225. Midea (A. McCoy, 34.6), 226. LEO (R. Fennell, 34.7), 227. Midea (A. McCoy, 34.8), 228. LEO (R. Fennell, 34.9), 229. Midea (A. McCoy, 35.0), 230. LEO (R. Fennell, 35.1), 231. Midea (A. McCoy, 35.2), 232. LEO (R. Fennell, 35.3), 233. Midea (A. McCoy, 35.4), 234. LEO (R. Fennell, 35.5), 235. Midea (A. McCoy, 35.6), 236. LEO (R. Fennell, 35.7), 237. Midea (A. McCoy, 35.8), 238. LEO (R. Fennell, 35.9), 239. Midea (A. McCoy, 36.0), 240. LEO (R. Fennell, 36.1), 241. Midea (A. McCoy, 36.2), 242. LEO (R. Fennell, 36.3), 243. Midea (A. McCoy, 36.4), 244. LEO (R. Fennell, 36.5), 245. Midea (A. McCoy, 36.6), 246. LEO (R. Fennell, 36.7), 247. Midea (A. McCoy, 36.8), 248. LEO (R. Fennell, 36.9), 249. Midea (A. McCoy, 37.0), 250. LEO (R. Fennell, 37.1), 251. Midea (A. McCoy, 37.2), 252. LEO (R. Fennell, 37.3), 253. Midea (A. McCoy, 37.4), 254. LEO (R. Fennell, 37.5), 255. Midea (A. McCoy, 37.6), 256. LEO (R. Fennell, 37.7), 257. Midea (A. McCoy, 37.8), 258. LEO (R. Fennell, 37.9), 259. Midea (A. McCoy, 38.0), 260. LEO (R. Fennell, 38.1), 261. Midea (A. McCoy, 38.2), 262. LEO (R. Fennell, 38.3), 263. Midea (A. McCoy, 38.4), 264. LEO (R. Fennell, 38.5), 265. Midea (A. McCoy, 38.6), 266. LEO (R. Fennell, 38.7), 267. Midea (A. McCoy, 38.8), 268. LEO (R. Fennell, 38.9), 269. Midea (A. McCoy, 39.0), 270. LEO (R. Fennell, 39.1), 271. Midea (A. McCoy, 39.2), 272. LEO (R. Fennell, 39.3), 273. Midea (A. McCoy, 39.4), 274. LEO (R. Fennell, 39.5), 275. Midea (A. McCoy, 39.6), 276. LEO (R. Fennell, 39.7), 277. Midea (A. McCoy, 39.8), 278. LEO (R. Fennell, 39.9), 279. Midea (A. McCoy, 40.0), 280. LEO (R. Fennell, 40.1), 281. Midea (A. McCoy, 40.2), 282. LEO (R. Fennell, 40.3), 283. Midea (A. McCoy, 40.4), 284. LEO (R. Fennell, 40.5), 285. Midea (A. McCoy, 40.6), 286. LEO (R. Fennell, 40.7), 287. Midea (A. McCoy, 40.8), 288. LEO (R. Fennell, 40.9), 289. Midea (A. McCoy, 41.0), 290. LEO (R. Fennell, 41.1), 291. Midea (A. McCoy, 41.2), 292. LEO (R. Fennell, 41.3), 293. Midea (A. McCoy, 41.4), 294. LEO (R. Fennell, 41.5), 295. Midea (A. McCoy, 41.6), 296. LEO (R. Fennell, 41.7), 297. Midea (A. McCoy, 41.8), 298. LEO (R. Fennell, 41.9), 299. Midea (A. McCoy, 42.0), 300. LEO (R. Fennell, 42.1), 301. Midea (A. McCoy, 42.2), 302. LEO (R. Fennell, 42.3), 303. Midea (A. McCoy, 42.4), 304. LEO (R. Fennell, 42.5), 305. Midea (A. McCoy, 42.6), 306. LEO (R. Fennell, 42.7), 307. Midea (A. McCoy, 42.8), 308. LEO (R. Fennell, 42.9), 309. Midea (A. McCoy, 43.0), 310. LEO (R. Fennell, 43.1), 311. Midea (A. McCoy, 43.2), 312. LEO (R. Fennell, 43.3), 313. Midea (A. McCoy, 43.4), 314. LEO (R. Fennell, 43.5), 315. Midea (A. McCoy, 43.6), 316. LEO (R. Fennell, 43.7), 317. Midea (A. McCoy, 43.8), 318. LEO (R. Fennell, 43.9), 319. Midea (A. McCoy, 44.0), 320. LEO (R. Fennell, 44.1), 321. Midea (A. McCoy, 44.2), 322. LEO (R. Fennell, 44.3), 323. Midea (A. McCoy, 44.4), 324. LEO (R. Fennell, 44.5), 325. Midea (A. McCoy, 44.6), 326. LEO (R. Fennell, 44.7), 327. Midea (A. McCoy, 44.8), 328. LEO (R. Fennell, 44.9), 329. Midea (A. McCoy, 45.0), 330. LEO (R. Fennell, 45.1), 331. Midea (A. McCoy, 45.2), 332. LEO (R. Fennell, 45.3), 333. Midea (A. McCoy, 45.4), 334. LEO (R. Fennell, 45.5), 335. Midea (A. McCoy, 45.6), 336. LEO (R. Fennell, 45.7), 337. Midea (A. McCoy, 45.8), 338. LEO (R. Fennell, 45.9), 339. Midea (A. McCoy, 46.0), 340. LEO (R. Fennell, 46.1), 341. Midea (A. McCoy, 46.2), 342. LEO (R. Fennell, 46.3), 343. Midea (A. McCoy, 46.4), 344. LEO (R. Fennell, 46.5), 345. Midea (A. McCoy, 46.6), 346. LEO (R. Fennell, 46.7), 347. Midea (A. McCoy, 46.8), 348. LEO (R. Fennell, 46.9), 349. Midea (A. McCoy, 47.0), 350. LEO (R. Fennell, 47.1), 351. Midea (A. McCoy, 47.2), 352. LEO (R. Fennell, 47.3), 353. Midea (A. McCoy, 47.4), 354. LEO (R. Fennell, 47.5), 355. Midea (A. McCoy, 47.6), 356. LEO (R. Fennell, 47.7), 357. Midea (A. McCoy, 47.8), 358. LEO (R. Fennell, 47.9), 359. Midea (A. McCoy, 48.0), 360. LEO (R. Fennell, 48.1), 361. Midea (A. McCoy, 48.2), 362. LEO (R. Fennell, 48.3), 363. Midea (A. McCoy, 48.4), 364. LEO (R. Fennell, 48.5), 365. Midea (A. McCoy, 48.6), 366. LEO (R. Fennell, 48.7), 367. Midea (A. McCoy, 48.8), 368. LEO (R. Fennell, 48.9), 369. Midea (A. McCoy, 49.0), 370. LEO (R. Fennell, 49.1), 371. Midea (A. McCoy, 49.2), 372. LEO (R. Fennell, 49.3), 373. Midea (A. McCoy, 49.4), 374. LEO (R. Fennell, 49.5), 375. Midea (A. McCoy, 49.6), 376. LEO (R. Fennell, 49.7), 377. Midea (A. McCoy, 49.8), 378. LEO (R. Fennell, 49.9), 379. Midea (A. McCoy, 50.0), 380. LEO (R. Fennell, 50.1), 381. Midea (A. McCoy, 50.2), 382. LEO (R. Fennell, 50.3), 383. Midea (A. McCoy, 50.4), 384. LEO (R. Fennell, 50.5), 385. Midea (A. McCoy, 50.6), 386. LEO (R. Fennell, 50.7), 387. Midea (A. McCoy, 50.8), 388. LEO (R. Fennell, 50.9), 389. Midea (A. McCoy, 51.0), 390. LEO (R. Fennell, 51.1), 391. Midea (A. McCoy, 51.2), 392. LEO (R. Fennell, 51.3), 393. Midea (A. McCoy, 51.4), 394. LEO (R. Fennell, 51.5), 395. Midea (A. McCoy, 51.6), 396. LEO (R. Fennell, 51.7), 397. Midea (A. McCoy, 51.8), 398. LEO (R. Fennell, 51.9), 399. Midea (A. McCoy, 52.0), 400. LEO (R. Fennell, 52.1), 401. Midea (A. McCoy, 52.2), 402. LEO (R. Fennell, 52.3), 403. Midea (A. McCoy, 52.4), 404. LEO (R. Fennell, 52.5), 405. Midea (A. McCoy, 52.6), 406. LEO (R. Fennell, 52.7), 407. Midea (A. McCoy, 52.8), 408. LEO (R. Fennell, 52.9), 409. Midea (A. McCoy, 53.0), 410. LEO (R. Fennell, 53.1), 411. Midea (A. McCoy, 53.2), 412. LEO (R. Fennell, 53.3), 413. Midea (A. McCoy, 53.4), 414. LEO (R. Fennell, 53.5), 415. Midea (A. McCoy, 53.6), 416. LEO (R. Fennell, 53.7), 417. Midea (A. McCoy, 53.8), 418. LEO (R. Fennell, 53.9), 419. Midea (A. McCoy, 54.0), 420. LEO (R. Fennell, 54.1), 421. Midea (A. McCoy, 54.2), 422. LEO (R. Fennell, 54.3), 423. Midea (A. McCoy, 54.4), 424. LEO (R. Fennell, 54.5), 425. Midea (A. McCoy, 54.6), 426. LEO (R. Fennell, 54.7), 427. Midea (A. McCoy, 54.8), 428. LEO (R. Fennell, 54.9), 429. Midea (A. McCoy, 55.0), 430. LEO (R. Fennell, 55.1), 431. Midea (A. McCoy, 55.2), 432. LEO (R. Fennell, 55.3), 433. Midea (A. McCoy, 55.4), 434. LEO (R. Fennell, 55.5), 435. Midea (A. McCoy, 55.6), 436. LEO (R. Fennell, 55.7), 437. Midea (A. McCoy, 55.8), 438. LEO (R. Fennell, 55.9), 439. Midea (A. McCoy, 56.0), 440. LEO (R. Fennell, 56.1), 441. Midea (A. McCoy, 56.2), 442. LEO (R. Fennell, 56.3), 443. Midea (A. McCoy, 56.4), 444. LEO (R. Fennell, 56.5), 445. Midea (A. McCoy, 56.6), 446. LEO (R. Fennell, 56.7), 447. Midea (A. McCoy, 56.8), 448. LEO (R. Fennell, 56.9), 449. Midea (A. McCoy, 57.0), 450. LEO (R. Fennell, 57.1), 451. Midea (A. McCoy, 57.2), 452. LEO (R. Fennell, 57.3), 453. Midea (A. McCoy, 57.4), 454. LEO (R. Fennell, 57.5), 455. Midea (A. McCoy, 57.6), 456. LEO (R. Fennell, 57.7), 457. Midea (A. McCoy, 57.8), 458. LEO (R. Fennell, 57.9), 459. Midea (A. McCoy, 58.0), 460. LEO (R. Fennell, 58.1), 461. Midea (A. McCoy, 58.2), 462. LEO (R. Fennell, 58.3), 463. Midea (A. McCoy, 58.4), 464. LEO (R. Fennell, 58.5), 465. Midea (A. McCoy, 58.6), 466. LEO (R. Fennell, 58.7), 467. Midea (A. McCoy, 58.8), 468. LEO (R. Fennell, 58.9), 469. Midea (A. McCoy, 59.0), 470. LEO (R. Fennell, 59.1), 471. Midea (A. McCoy, 59.2), 472. LEO (R. Fennell, 59.3), 473. Midea (A. McCoy, 59.4), 474. LEO (R. Fennell, 59.5), 475. Midea (A. McCoy, 59.6), 476. LEO (R. Fennell, 59.7), 477. Midea (A. McCoy, 59.8), 478. LEO (R. Fennell, 59.9), 479. Midea (A. McCoy, 60.0), 480. LEO (R. Fennell, 60.1), 481. Midea (A. McCoy, 60.2), 482. LEO (R. Fennell, 60.3), 483. Midea (A. McCoy, 60.4), 484. LEO (R. Fennell, 60.5), 485. Midea (A. McCoy, 60.6), 486. LEO (R. Fennell, 60.7), 487. Midea (A. McCoy, 60.8), 488. LEO (R. Fennell, 60.9), 489. Midea (A. McCoy, 61.0), 490. LEO (R. Fennell, 61.1), 491. Midea (A. McCoy, 61.2), 492. LEO (R. Fennell, 61.3), 493. Midea (A. McCoy, 61.4), 494. LEO (R. Fennell, 61.5), 495. Midea (A. McCoy, 61.6), 496. LEO (R. Fennell, 61.7), 497. Midea (A. McCoy, 61.8), 498. LEO (R. Fennell, 61.9), 499. Midea (A. McCoy, 62.0), 500. LEO (R. Fennell, 62.1), 501. Midea (A. McCoy, 62.2), 502. LEO (R. Fennell, 62.3), 503. Midea (A. McCoy, 62.4), 504. LEO (R. Fennell, 62.5), 505. Midea (A. McCoy, 62.6), 506. LEO (R. Fennell, 62.7), 507. Midea (A. McCoy, 62.8), 508. LEO (R. Fennell, 62.9), 509. Midea (A. McCoy, 63.0), 510. LEO (R. Fennell, 63.1), 511. Midea (A. McCoy, 63.2), 512. LEO (R. Fennell, 63.3), 513. Midea (A. McCoy, 63.4), 514. LEO (R. Fenn

Win £10,000 as a late Christmas present

The story so far . . .

It's a bit late to be making out a Christmas list, isn't it? But this is my Interactive Team Football list. I've got my 20 extra transfers burning a hole in my pocket. For your FA Cup team?

No, that's all done and dusted, with one exception. I'm talking about the 20 extra I got the other week for teams entered before December 13.

Well, you don't want to spend it all at once. The season has a long way to go.

Agreed; but I've just spent all week buying things for friends and relatives, and I think it's about time I gave myself a treat.

Who's on the list, then? You've crossed quite a few names out, I see.

Yes, I had Padovano down, but he's injured.

Your old striker jinks again.

Possibly. An unkind person would suggest that he and his old mate Lombardo fancied a trip home to Italy for Christmas.

Yes, you would have to be very low on Christmas spirit to suggest such a thing. Who else?

I was wondering if I should give in and get Negri. I don't like to follow the crowd, but he's got 107 points, for goodness' sake, and he shows no signs of slowing down.

And yet it was Durie who scored a hat-trick on Saturday, and he'd come a lot cheaper.

You read my mind. But then yesterday I knew who it was I was looking for.

And that was . . . ?

Jürgen Klinsmann, of course. He'll be my team's talisman, and my FA Cup side's as well. It's going to be Osie's dream all over again, as Jürgen inspires Spurs in all competitions.

He isn't even in the ITF lists yet, though.

No, but I'm not going to waste a transfer on an inferior player, I can wait.

Two things: the busy Christmas programme, and the year.

Good point about the Christmas games. Two in a week for the English Premiership clubs. Perhaps a striker looking at a couple of easy fixtures might be a good investment. But what's the year got to do with anything?

Spurs only win the cup in a year with a one in it. 1998 has a one in it.

I meant at the end, of course.

Say what you mean, and mean what you say, then. And what about 1997? Spurs beat Chelsea 2-1.

Funny year, 1997: a lot of hallucinogenic substances around. Just because people thought they saw it . . .

Only a couple of weeks until the FA Cup league begins — and for the person who picks the best cup team, a handsome prize awaits

So it's Emley, then. In the wake of the Unibond League team's ejection of Lincoln City from the FA Cup in a second-round replay, supporters of West Ham, their third-round opponents, on their way to Blackburn on Saturday, were asking "Where is Emley, anyway?" and "Will the replay be at Huddersfield?" — mindful, no doubt, of their team's history of hiccups against lowly opposition.

There are no foregone conclusions in the cup, but ITF entrants listening to the half-times at a game, or at home checking Coefax, will experience more than the usual frisson as news comes through of underdogs taking a shock lead, or hanging on with minutes to go.

Many people have decided to enter a new team specifically for the ITF FA Cup League (including the Tonnets Scottish Cup, which will earn ITF points from January 24). Any team entered from now on is entitled to 20 transfers, likely to be vital as favoured teams fall by the wayside.



other hand, could stage two giant-killings in two days: Crystal Palace, without a league win at home, will be sweating before the visit of Scunthorpe United on the Saturday, while Wrexham visit south London the following

HOW IS YOUR TEAM DOING?
Call the ITF Checkline on
0891 884 643
Stop a minute, using a Touch-tone telephone. Public calls cost twice as much.

day to face unpredictable Wimbledon.

The meeting of Chelsea and Manchester United will be close, and it is a brave person who would select players from either team, although tight games, with replays a strong possibility, offer opportunities to get two appearances from a player before needing to think about a team change.

For those who want to register an FA Cup League team, the next entry form will appear in *The Times* on December 26.

NICK SZCZEPANIK



Gordon Durie, who scored a hat-trick at the weekend, picked up a handy 18 points. The next best striker's haul was six

FAXBACK: YOUR UP-TO-DATE TEAM SCORES

The brand new Times Faxback service provides you with a complete results sheet of your team, showing current and total scores, dates, times and details of transfers, as well as your position in the ITF League and, if appropriate, your mini-league (women, students, youth). Scores and transfer confirmations are updated by 12 noon on the day following a match or matches.

Make sure you have your ten-digit PIN number ready when you call. To obtain an ITF Team Faxback, simply pick up the handset of the fax machine and dial the telephone number below. If your fax does not have a handset, attach a handset or press the on-hook or telephone button instead and dial the number below. Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked. Calls cost £2. per minute and are available in the UK only.

The number to call for your Faxback is:

0991 111 333

If you have any problems operating this service, call the Faxback Helpline on 0171-412 3795. This service is provided by Telecom Express, Westminster Tower, London SE1 7SP.

LEAGUE UPDATES

ITF LEAGUE	PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE
£50,000 top prize	Professionalism cheque
£1,000 monthly prize	Monthly prize of £1,000
STUDENTS' LEAGUE	YOUTH LEAGUE
Monthly prize of £1,000	Monthly prize of £1,000
signed football and sports bag	signed football and sports bag
WOMEN'S LEAGUE	
Monthly prize of £1,000	
signed football and sports bag	

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

1 C Purdy	254	Kates Cosmos	554
2 B Fletcher	254	Ab Fab	554
3 S Brooks	549	Sandra Specials	549
4 S Whitfield	549	IS Chumbawumbas	549
5 J Gardner	549	Sophie Reader Pa	549
6 S Reader	549	Good Luck Malika	549
7 M Hussain	549	Bugger's Boys	549
8 L Emery	549	Harry's Heroes	549
9 A Beane	549	The Breckons I	549
10 A Hemmings	549	Kates Upstairs	549
11 C Purdy	549	XII Superstars	549
12 P Johnston	549	No Slip Ups	549
13 T Saul	549	He's Bells	549
14 I Irvine	549	James PC One	549
15 J Woolner	549	Pepper Pops	549
16 J Peppar	549	Fantasy Wolves II	549
17 Adachi	549	Pastie Ltd	549
18 P Sloan	549	Farmor Pinks	549
19 S Allport	549	Janet's Alibis	549
20 J Blimond	549		

STUDENTS' LEAGUE

1 N Wheatley	617	H D G Is A Sad Waster	617
2 G Wilson	617	Dog Soldiers	617
3 T Gardner	576	Chumbawumbas	576
4 Mr N Wheatley	576	Witherage K III	576
5 J Gardner	576	IS Chumbawumbas	576
6 C Maranaczk	543	James's XI	543
7 N Wheatley	543	A Tight Horse Is Fun	543
8 Steven Shipley	524	Set Against	524
9 J Windatt	524	Edgar Shaboo	524
10 J McGill	511	The White Helms	511
11 J Frost	509	Variety Sports Inter	509
12 M Thirrington	504	Siljohi's waitese	504
13 E Carmichael	504	Jedi Masters	504
14 E Bergman	504	Suey Sue Barker	504
15 P Henon	504	Henonhammers	504
16 T Shurple	500	Mr Men	500
17 M Griffiths	498	The Town	498
18 D Griffiths	498	The Spice Boys	498
19 C Van Hough	498	The Boy Sprouts	498
20 S Wilton	497	FC Rock	497

YOUTH LEAGUE

1 D Lewis	603	Lewis Boys II	603
2 R Wickie	560	Bellygallyovers	560
3 M McPhillips	560	Henry Hames	560
4 M Somerville	542	IS Chumbawumbas	542
5 J Gardner	542	James's XI	542
6 C Maranaczk	543	Smoochy United	543
7 J Lawrence	510	The Offspring FC	510
8 C Owen	505	Kry-noma Three	505
9 M Roberts	502	Up The League FC	502
10 T Smith	501	Olivers Arms	501
11 O Ledgard	490	Monny's Dots	490
12 A Mottet	490	The Invincibles	490
13 N McQuinn	490	No Opposition	490
14 B McMillan	490	Tetral Crumblers	490
15 N Broderson	490	Aye	490
16 A Simpson	490	Flash XI	490
17 K Tindall	490	Joeshunchoffers	490
18 J Tompkins	490	Furze Reserves	490
19 S Mower	490	Edwards Entertainers	490
20 E Swirles	490		

ITF LEAGUE

1 Mr M Jones	686	Joe	686
2 D Fenton	686	Of The Blue	686
3 Mr M Jones	686	JB4	686
4 Mike Madden	686	Poachers never change	686
5 S Legg	686	Goose 4	686
6 Malcolm Jackson	686	No name	686
7 B Fookerley	686	LFC 4	686
8 D Shuter	686	Don 2	686
9 Mr M Jones	686	JB4	686
10 C Rainbow	686	Rainbows Topstam	686
11 N Wheatley	686	H D G Is A Sad Waster	686
12 Mary Ann Kennedy	686	Inverness Undecided	686
13 Mr A Columbe	686	Mr Wado XI	686
14 C Burr	686	Bury's Spurs 4	686
15 AJ Hastings	686	Turners Earners 5	686
16 P Turner	686	JB2	686
17 Mr M Jones	686	Tobs	686
18 A Luckhurst	686	Dog Soldiers	686
19 G Wilson	686	Raselli 2	686
20 D Shuter	686	Cheslo 6	686
21 K Fathall	686	St Remy Strikers	686
22 Graeme Dabner	686	Bransingham FC	686
23 C Sloan	686	Nadar	686
24 Mr O Edbrooke Sainer	686	Gemini	686
25 A Nevizaki	686	Turners Earn 5	686
26 G Dolan	686	John Hunt Tannum 7	686
27 P Turner	686	Yukon Merchants	686
28 P Hunt	686	Liberos	686
29 P Rees	686	Turners Earners 6	686
30 D Ross	686	CLANB	686
31 P Turner	686	JB4	686
32 A Luckhurst	686	TEDDY 1	686
33 J Strickland	686	John Hunt FA Cup A	686
34 K Lodyer	686	This Years Lot	686
35 B Barr	686	Call Block H	686
36 G Kooner	686	Te T Cup	686
37 J Hunt	686	Goose 5	686
38 Doulay	686	GOY 5	686
39 R Jones	686	Novote Spoilers	686
40 Mr P Turner	686	Too Far	686
41 S Legg	686	Norport Nuts	686
42 D Shuter	686	Pulp Fiction III	686
43 Barba Pappo a la Bacon	686	The Warriors Come out to play	686
44 Mary Ann Kennedy	686	JB4	686
45 O Wale	686	Bransingham FC	686
46 Michael Huddlesome	686	TOBLITT	686
47 Brian O'Hare	686	JB4	686
48 Jon Pregon	686	Turners Earn 1	686
49 J Hunt	686	Game of Two Pins	686
50 Steven Adams	686	Boys Boys	686
51 A Luckhurst	686	Goose 6	686
52 B Barr	686	Marco Champions	686
53 P Turner	686	Cheslo 2	686
54 Chris Forde	686	John Hunt Tannum 8	686
55 D Calder	686	Boca	686
56 S Legg	686	Handley Rangers	686
57 I Ralph	686	St. Patrick's Charities	686
58 K Fathall	686	Pegasus and Unicorns	686
59 M Lindquist	686	DN Carter	686
60 Michael Horan	686	A Lynn	686
61 A Madocks	686	George Mijuskovich	686
62 M Lindquist	686	P Turner	686
63 V Cox	686	Spartan Monkey	686
64 D Carter	686	Big Mac Europe	686
65 A Lynn	686	Turners Earners 9	686
66 George Mijuskovich	686	Nonchalant A PC 4	686
67 P Turner	686	St Remy Strikers	686
68 A Stone	686	Cub 15-30	686
69 B Ward	686	Blazen Heads	686
70 Graeme Dabner	686	Turners Earners 1	686
71 Andy Robson	686	Shirts His	686
72 J Nitcher	686	Winter Warriors 1	686
73 P Turner	686	Quero Fan	686
74 Mr A Mellon	686	NH4	686
75 Henry Wheeler	686	Cyprus Am Bth 12	686
76 Mr K Leiby	686	Eastwick Stars	686
77 H Pritchard	686	Survivors	686
78 P Rawlins	686	Eddie Woe	686
79 G Midington	686	Invischacuzzi	686
80 A Luckhurst	686	Ralphie Boys	686
81 P Turner	686	Nudge Nudge Wink Wink	686
82 I Ralph	686	Odine Park RING	686
83 Jeremy Dwyer	686	Wuc	686
84 Mary Ann Kennedy	686	Wanabie Heroes XI	686
85 D Shuter	686	Carlisle A	686
86 A Luckhurst	686	John Hunt Tannum 4	686
87 Susan Maden	686	FC Pops	686
88 Philip Ward	686	Wetherby Racing 7	686
89 J Hunt	686	St Remy Strikers	686
90 D Dunstan	686	John Hunt Tannum 2	686
91 Andrew Bates	686	At	686
92 Graeme Dabner	686	Drowned Goldfish	686
93 Adam Fitzhugh	686		
94 J Hunt	686		
95 Mrs P Tansley	686		
96 T Gannage	686		

PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE

1 Simon Grayson	385	Asion Villa	385
2 Paul Simpson	385	Derby County/Wolves	385
3 All-England	385	Leeds United	385
4 Steve Foss	385	West Ham United	385
5 John Salako	385	Coventry City	385
6 Robert Lee	385	Newcastle United	385
7 Rob Savage	385	Leicester City	385
8 Dean Blackwell	385	Crystal Palace	385
9 Jonathan Hunt	385	Wimbledon	385
10 David Tunde	385	Derby County	385
11 Kyle Lightbourne	385	Crystal Palace	385
12 David Eady	385	Newcastle United	385
13 Richard Shaw	385	Coventry City	385
14 Kevin Gallacher	385	Blackburn Rovers	385
15 Frank Leleuf	385	Chelsea	385
16 Tim Broadbent	385	West Ham United	385
17 Gavin Southgate	385	Asion Villa	385
18 Ben Krause	385	Liverpool	385
19 Kenny Cunningham	385	Wimbledon	385
20 Nigel Marry	385	Leeds United	385
21 David Wetherall	385	Coventry City	385
22 Teddy Sheringham	385	Manchester United	385
23 Roger Cross	385	Everton	385
24 Dave Watson	385	Liverpool	385
25 Paul Babb	385	Charlton	385
26 Dennis Wise	385	Asion Villa/Middlesbrough	385
27 Andy Townsend	385	Wimbledon	385
28 Dean Holdsworth	385	Coventry City	385
29 Paul Williams	385	Tottenham Hotspur	385
30 Gary Mabbutt	385	Arsenal	385
31 David Seaman	385	Asion Villa	385
32 Upo Ekechi	385	Chelsea	385
33 Kevin Hinchcock	385	Liverpool	385
34 Patrick Berger	385	Leeds United	385
35 Andrew Ledford	385	West Ham	385
36 John Hendrie	385	Crystal Palace	385
37 Nicky Bun	385	Crystal Palace	385
38 Lee Sharpe	385	Derby County	385
39 Ian Roberts	385	Arsenal	385
40 Andrew Mueai	385	Blackburn Rovers	385
41 Chris Palmer	385	Leeds United	385
42 Lee Dixon	385	Leeds United	385
43 Lars Bohinen	385	Leeds United	385
44 John Bensch	385	Leeds United	385
45 Pannas Karamark	385	Leeds United	385
46 Steve Clarke	385	Leeds United	385
47 Steve Lomas	385	Leeds United	385
48 Robin Van Der Laan	385	Leeds United	385
49 Jason Eust	385	Leeds United	385
50 Kasey Keller	385	Leeds United	385
51 Graeme Le Saux	385	Leeds United	385
52 Richard Johnson	385	Leeds United	385
53 Roger Crox	385	Leeds United	385
54 Stewart Castledine	385	Leeds United	385
55 Neil Redfern	385	Leeds United	385
56 Andy Simon	385	Leeds United	385
57 Robbie Fowler	385	Leeds United	385
58 Colin Hendry	385	Leeds United	385
59 Danny Williamson	385	Leeds United	385
60 Darren Fisher	385	Leeds United	385
61 Gary Neville	385	Leeds United	385
62 David Beardsley	385	Leeds United	385
63 John Scales	385	Leeds United	385
64 Alan Wright	385	Leeds United	385
65 John Hartson	385	Leeds United	385
66 Spencer Platt	385	Leeds United	385
67 Ian Downe	385	Leeds United	385
68 Mark Wright	385	Leeds United	385
69 Nader Eaden	385	Leeds United	385
70 Alan Shearer	385	Leeds United	385
71 Colin Calderwood	385	Leeds United	385
72 Lee Carsley	385	Leeds United	385
73 Glastonbury	385	Leeds United	385
74 Marc Edwards	385	Leeds United	385
75 Mike Whitlow	385	Leeds United	385

INTERNET LEAGUE

1 Mike Madden	660	Poachers never change	660
---------------	-----	-----------------------	-----

Full updated players lists and transfer guide

Careful examination of the Christmas fixtures may yield dividends in the transfer market for new players

A Pride Park, Derby County's newly-built home ground, a casual visitor can expect to hear a strange and alarming noise rising to a crescendo before being lost in a ghostly echo in the desolate wastes of the reclaimed industrial land that surrounds the stadium.

Poconoocommunt. It is most frequently heard after any action involving the team's Estonian goalkeeper, Mart Poom. The fact that Poom's surname is supposed to rhyme with "norm" rather than "room" puts nobody off.

The Derby supporters who shout his name were no doubt disappointed that their team could only draw 0-0 with Crystal Palace on Saturday, but for Poom it completed a successful week that included two clean sheets, the goalless draw at Newcastle in midweek helped any ITF entrant with Poom as their goalkeeper to a total of 14 points — three for each goal half, and two appearance points.

It provided a timely reminder that careful consideration of the fixture lists can be rewarding. Two transfers are used by bringing in a player for one specific game; a player due to play a succession of games against potentially unthreatening opposition can save a potentially useful transfer later in the season.

This week, the Christmas



programme sees all FA Carling Premiership clubs playing twice, giving teams the opportunity to make up lost ground, or open up a decisive gap, with two three-point hauls. In ITF too, a player hitting form could net you enough points to jump thousands of places. Although there are no New Year's Day fixtures in England this year, next weekend sees some interesting pairs of games.

Poom and Derby face Newcastle United at home on Boxing Day and Barnsley away next Sunday, and will be optimistic of shutting both out. Tottenham, a team down in the dumps after big defeats by Chelsea and Coventry, could be boosted by their victory over Barnsley in a fixture many tipped them to lose and the news that Jürgen

Klinsmann, their former favourite, will be rejoining them on loan. Add to that the avowed intention of David Ginola to force his way back into the France international picture before summer's World Cup, and an away game against out-of-form Aston Villa and the north London derby at White Hart Lane look attractive propositions.

Manchester United are unlikely to be quaking in their boots at the prospect of receiving Everton, first away win of the season or not, nor of a trip to Highfield Road, despite Coventry's four goals in their last home match.

Chelsea, however, might be a team to avoid if you are looking to plunder players. They play at The Dell next Monday, and could, despite Southampton's recent improvement, continue their recent goal-scoring form away from home.

However, their Boxing Day visitors are Wimbledon, who have won the last two District Line derbies at Stamford Bridge; two years ago to the day they finished with ten men (Vinnie Jones having been dismissed for a foul on Rudi Gullig) but still triumphed 2-1, and took the honours last autumn with a powerful performance, winning 4-2. The horses for courses argument is a powerful one in football.

ITF helpline: 01582 702720.



Mart Poom of Derby County, who accumulated an impressive 14 points over the week.

THIS WEEK'S MOVES

There are no changes to the ITF lists this week

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

☐ **YOU MAY** transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

☐ **EACH TEAM** that was entered at the start of the season was allocated 60 transfers for the season and each team registering after that date had its number of transfers reduced by three per week up to December 13. Teams registered before noon that day were allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered since then and from now on will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season.

☐ **THE LINE** is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

☐ **YOU MAY** make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

☐ **TRANSFERS** made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

☐ **YOUR NEW** player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

☐ **CALLS COST** 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628.

Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	2.00	2	-9
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0	52
10301	M Barmby	Aston Villa	3.00	0	36
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00	0	-34
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn R	3.50	8	49
10601	K Brannagan	Bolton W	1.50	0	38
10701	S Kerr	Celtic	4.00	0	0
10702	J Gould	Celtic	3.50	8	38
10801	E De Goey	Chelsea	3.00	3	63
10901	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	0	17
11001	C Nash	Crystal Palace	0.25	0	0
11002	K Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00	7	31
11101	M Poom	Derby County	1.50	14	40
11201	S Dykstra	Dundee United	2.00	3	21
11301	I Webster	Dunfermline	1.00	0	9
11401	N Southall	Everton	2.00	0	3
11501	G Roussel	Hearts	3.50	-11	44
11601	C Reid	Hibernian	1.50	-9	4
11602	O Gottschalkson	Hibernian	1.50	0	4
11701	D Lakovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	8	6
11801	N Martyn	Leeds United	3.50	8	64
11901	K Keller	Leicester City	3.00	1	51
12001	D James	Liverpool	3.50	8	56
12101	P Schuster	Manchester Utd	5.00	16	80
12201	S Howie	Motherwell	1.00	0	0
12301	S Givan	Newcastle United	3.00	0	17
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	0	29
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wed	2.00	-7	-11
12702	P Jones	Southampton	1.00	2	2
12801	A Main	St Johnstone	0.50	0	20
12901	I Walker	Tottenham H	2.50	8	24
13001	L Miklos	West Ham United	2.00	0	4
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50	0	51

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	5.00	0	12
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	0	27
20203	E Pettit	Arsenal	3.00	0	15
20301	S Stanton	Aston Villa	2.50	0	14
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50	0	16
20303	S Grayson	Aston Villa	2.00	0	17
20304	F Nelson	Aston Villa	2.00	0	8
20401	N Eaden	Barnsley	0.50	-3	-8
20402	N Thompson	Barnsley	0.50	0	-5
20403	D Bernard	Blackburn R	1.00	-2	-7
20502	J Kenna	Blackburn R	3.00	5	32
20503	P Valery	Blackburn R	2.50	0	3
20601	N Cox	Bolton W	2.00	0	3
21001	M Whitlow	Bolton W	1.50	0	4
21002	R Elliott	Bolton W	2.00	0	9
21003	J Phillips	Bolton W	1.00	-2	-4
21004	T McInally	Celtic	3.50	0	45
21005	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00	8	48
21006	G Le Saux	Chelsea	4.00	1	42
21007	D Paterson	Chelsea	4.00	5	49
21008	C Babayaro	Chelsea	2.00	0	20
21009	F Salsbery	Chelsea	2.00	0	13
21010	D Barnes	Coventry City	1.00	0	10
21011	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	0	-1
21012	R Nissen	Coventry City	1.00	0	-1
21013	D Gordon	Crystal Palace	1.50	4	17
21014	M Edworthy	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	-1
21101	J Smith	Derby County	1.50	8	20
21102	C Powell	Derby County	1.00	4	1
21103	D Yates	Derby County	1.50	8	8
21104	G Rowett	Derby County	1.50	8	8
21401	A Finchcliffe	Everton	2.50	5	8
21402	E Barnes	Everton	1.50	4	5
21403	T Phelan	Everton	1.50	0	-1
21404	M Ward	Everton	1.50	0	5
21501	G Locke	Hearts	1.50	-4	8
21701	D Kerr	Kilmarnock	1.00	5	9
21801	G Kelly	Leeds Utd	2.50	5	23
21802	D Robertson	Leeds Utd	2.50	4	23
21902	S Guppy	Leicester City	3.00	0	21
22001	S Bjornbeie	Liverpool	3.00	5	13
22002	J McAleer	Liverpool	3.00	0	11
22101	R Jones	Manchester Utd	4.00	0	20
22102	G Neville	Manchester Utd	3.50	10	44
22103	P Neville	Manchester Utd	3.50	9	37
22201	S Watson	Newcastle Utd	3.00	4	13
22202	W Barton	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	14
22301	J Beresford	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	16
22302	S Pearce	Newcastle Utd	3.00	4	19
22401	A Clark	Rangers	3.00	0	20
22402	S Stanssens	Rangers	3.00	0	20
22501	P Blondeau	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	-15
22502	I Nolan	Sheffield Wed	2.00	-4	-11
22503	J Dodd	Sheffield Wed	1.50	0	-1
22702	F Benall	Southampton	0.75	0	5
22703	S Charlton	Southampton	0.75	0	2
22801	C Wilson	Tottenham H	2.00	5	9
22802	J Edinborough	Tottenham H	2.00	5	9
22803	S Carr	Tottenham H	2.00	0	0
22901	J Dicks	West Ham Utd	1.50	-2	-1
22902	A Empey	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	0
22903	T Braecker	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	17
23001	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	2.00	0	13
23002	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	2.00	0	-6
23003	A Kumble	Wimbledon	2.00	0	16

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
30101	B O'Neill	Aberdeen	2.00	0	-22
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	3.00	0	13
30202	M Keown	Arsenal	3.00	0	2
30203	G Grimand	Arsenal	2.00	0	14
30204	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	11
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.00	0	11
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.00	0	23
30401	A De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00	-2	-20
30402	A Moses	Barnsley	0.50	-3	-23
30403	M Appleby	Barnsley	0.50	-3	-8
30502	C Hendry	Blackburn R	3.00	5	26
30504	S Handkhoz	Blackburn R	2.50	5	21
30505	T Pedersen	Blackburn R	2.00	0	2
30601	G Taggart	Bolton W	1.50	0	5
30602	G Bergeson	Bolton W	1.00	-1	12
30603	C Fairclough	Bolton W	1.00	-1	-3
30701	E Annoni	Celtic	1.50	5	12
30702	M MacKay	Celtic	3.00	0	2
30703	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.00	5	44
30704	M Rieper	Celtic	3.00	0	29
30801	F Lacombe	Chelsea	3.00	5	36
30802	M Duberry	Chelsea	3.00	1	24
30803	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50	1	14
30804	B Lambourde	Chelsea	2.50	0	-1
30901	L Doherty	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
30902	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	13
30903	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	0	-5
31001	A Roberts	Crystal Palace	1.50	4	15
31002	A Linaghan	Crystal Palace	0.75	4	10
31003	D Tuttle	Crystal Palace	0.75	0	0
31004	H Hirderson	Crystal Palace	1.00	4	1
31101	I Stimes	Derby County	2.50	4	13
31102	J Laurien	Derby County	2.50	0	12
31103	S Presley	Dundee Utd	2.00	1	17
31301	G Shields	Dunfermline	1.50	-1	-1
31401	S Bilic	Everton	2.50	0	-18
31402	D Watson	Everton	2.00	5	15
31403	C Tiler	Everton	1.50	4	12
31404	D War	Hearts	2.00	-5	25
31501	J Hughes	Hibernian	2.00	-4	-13
31601	D Wetherall	Leeds Utd	2.50	4	35
31602	G Hall	Leeds Utd	2.00	5	24
31603	R Molenaar	Leeds Utd	2.00	5	14
31804	L Radebe	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	15
31901	M Elliott	Leicester City	3.50	0	46
31902	P Markum	Leicester City	2.50	4	31
31903	S Walsh	Leicester City	2.50	0	33
31904	S Prior	Leicester City	2.00	-1	7
32001	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00	0	5
32002	D Matteo	Liverpool	3.00	5	21
32003	B Kyranne	Liverpool	3.00	4	30
32004	H Berg	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	27
32101	D May	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	0
32102	G Pallister	Manchester Utd	3.50	10	40
32301	P Albert	Newcastle Utd	2.50	3	9
32302	D Pascoe	Newcastle Utd	3.00	-1	8
32303	S Howey	Newcastle Utd	2.00	3	10
32304	J McInally	Newcastle Utd	3.00	3	10
32401	S Porini	Rangers	3.50	-1	29
32402	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	0	29
32403	L Amoroso	Rangers	3.50	0	5
32404	R Gough	Rangers	4.00	0	5
32501	D Walker	Sheffield Wed	2.00	-3	-4
32502	J Newson	Sheffield Wed	2.00	-3	-3
32503	P Altherton	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	-1
32701	R Dryden	Southampton	1.00	0	-3
32702	C Lusham	Southampton	1.00	0	2
32703	K Monkou	Southampton	1.00	0	7
32801	S McCuskey	St Johnstone	0.50	0	5
32802	S Campbell	Tottenham H	2.50	5	6
32803	J Scalls	Tottenham H	2.50	0	1
32804	R Vega	Tottenham H	2.00	0	3
32805	C Calderwood	Tottenham H	2.00	5	6
32901	R Ferdinand	West Ham Utd	2.50	-2	0
32902	R Hall	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	0
31403	D Unsworth	West Ham Utd	2.00	-3	3
32903	S Potts	West Ham Utd	1.50	0	2
32904	I Pearce	West Ham Utd	2.00	-2	-6
33001	C Perry	Wimbledon	2.50	0	13
33002	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50	0	18

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
40101	E Jess	Aberdeen	2.00	1	21
40102	P Bernard	Aberdeen	2.00	1	8
40201	M Overmars	Arsenal	5.50	0	42
40202	P Vieira	Arsenal	3.50	0	26
40203	S Hughes	Arsenal	2.00	0	3
40204	R Parlor	Arsenal	2.50	0	32
40205	D Platt	Arsenal	1.50	0	19
40301	M Draper	Aston Villa	3.00	2	28
40302	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50	5	29
40401	N Redfern	Barnsley	3.00	1	43
40402	E Tinker	Barnsley	2.00	1	20
40403	D Sheridan	Barnsley	1.00	0	12

EF Language confirms increasing dominance and looks likely overall winner

Cayard more than a match in tight finish

BY EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

NEVER before have so many boats finished a Whitbread Round the World Race leg in such a tight order as last night when Paul Cayard, on EF Language, led a charge for the line off the Sydney Opera House to win his second leg in three starts and confirm his increasing dominance in this race.

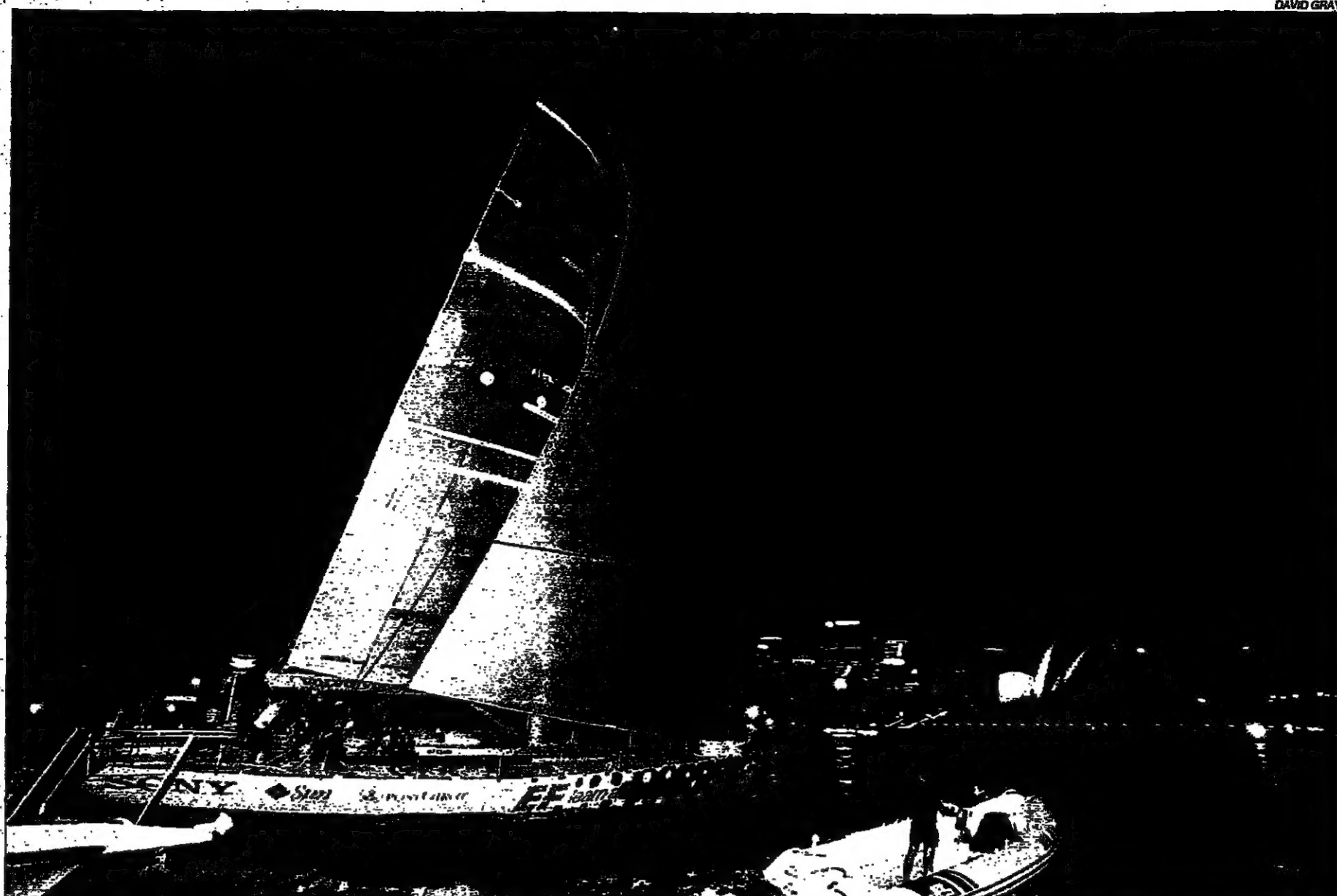
After an agonisingly close nine-day contest from Fremantle, the first five boats finished the 2,250-mile course in the space of just ten minutes. Swedish Match, the second leg winner skippered by Gunnar Krantz, who was overtaken by Cayard within a few miles of the finish, was second, five minutes behind the Swedish boat. Then came George Collins on Cheslie Racing a minute later, Grant Dalton on Merit Cup a further two minutes back and Knut Frostad on Innovation Kvaerner after another two minutes.

While Cayard was able to celebrate a potentially race-winning lead, Great Britain's Lawrie Smith and his young crew on Silk Cut were coming to terms with what appears to be a mortal blow to their hopes of taking overall honours, or even a place in the top three.

Going into the last 12 hours of the leg, Smith was third as the yachts roared up the New South Wales coast, driven by a strong south-westerly breeze. According to Smith, they blew a spinnaker and also picked a course too close to the shore, finding themselves slipping back through the fleet.

If they had finished third, the Silk Cut team would have been fourth overall in Sydney and just 40 points behind Cayard. But the points system, which has given Smith comfort for his two fourth places, dealt the Lynton-based skipper a cruel hand. Finishing the leg in seventh position, 26 minutes behind Cayard, has dropped him to sixth overall, a full 98 points behind the Californian.

"I suppose I am more upset than Grant [Dalton]," a deflated Smith said. "It was a very close leg and Silk Cut, Toshiba and Cheslie in the north were looking very good at times. We got into third place and were a little bit unlucky that the wind came in from behind. In the last 100 miles we screwed up, breaking a sail, and we were too close inshore. When the boats are



EF Language sails into Sydney harbour to give Paul Cayard, the skipper, his second win in three legs after a thrilling race in which only ten minutes separated five boats

close and you are a little off the pace, you come seventh, not third." Given the pre-race form guide, it is hard to believe that Smith is already so far down the pack after just a third of the nine legs. It must be particularly galling for him that Cayard, in a boat Smith prepared before he abandoned Team EF, is now sweeping all before him.

Cayard, meanwhile, was delighted to emerge again at the front after

a difficult leg when he and his navigator, Mark Rudiger, were rarely out of the top three. "It's a nice spot to be in here, one-third of the way through," he said. "I think the guys are doing real good. We're all really into the short-term, intensity-type sailing and it was a good leg for that."

Cayard added that he believes his boat is a good performer in a variety of conditions and had benefited

from Smith's input. "He picked it," Cayard noted.

Dalton arrived relieved not to be in Smith's shoes but realistic about his chances in the remainder of the race. The Auckland-based skipper has become convinced that his boat is slow by about 0.3 knots in moderate upwind conditions and is beginning to think he chose the wrong hull of the two designed for him by

Dalton is now fourth overall, 74 points behind Cayard, but admits catching him will be difficult. "I've always felt we'd get the measure of Kvaerner and Swedish Match, but beating EF Language is going to be hard," he said.

Dalton is impressed by the overall standard in this small, high-quality fleet. "The girls [EF Education] are sailing really well. If they were in the last race they would have won it

on this form," he said. Among other disappointed skippers will have been Britain's Paul Standbridge, seventh overall in Toshiba, who had his crew well up in the running for much of the leg, only to see it all go wrong towards the end, again partly as a result of blowing a spinnaker and getting too close to the shore on the run up the coast.

Standings, page 36

SWIMMING

Smith out of world title race

BY CRAIG LORR

MICHELLE SMITH, the triple Olympic champion, has withdrawn from the world championships in Perth, Australia, next month because she has not recovered completely from a whiplash injury sustained in a car crash last October.

Smith, 28, whose spectacular improvement at a late stage in a long career made her the most controversial figure of the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, said yesterday that the accident, in County Carlow on Halloween night, had ruined her preparation.

"The decision to miss the world championships, from January 8 to 18, was taken after a disappointing performance in Bordeaux, France, last weekend," Smith, who now competes under her married name of De Bruin, said the decision had been "purely heartache" for her. "Since Atlanta, these championships [Perth] have been my main focus - but the injuries I received at the end of October have put paid to that dream," she said. "My training has been severely curtailed since then and this weekend's tournament in Bordeaux made it clear how badly that has affected me."

Smith won the 200 metres and 400 metres medley and 400 metres freestyle in Atlanta and was third in the 200 metres butterfly. In Bordeaux last weekend, she swam the 200 metres medley in 2min 26sec, about 13sec slower than her Olympic-winning time.

There have been serious doubts about Smith's ability to repeat her Atlanta achievements after poor performances at the European championships in Spain in August.

Wu Yanyan and Chen Yan, of China, last month broke the 200 metres and 400 metres world medley records, respectively, with times of 2min 25sec and 4min 55sec, faster than Smith's best efforts in Atlanta. Having taken 17sec off her best time in the 400 metres medley in little more than two seasons, Smith would be hard pressed to find much more.

However, Smith obviously has no thoughts of retiring. She confirmed yesterday her intention to defend her Olympic titles in Sydney in 2000.

RUGBY UNION: LEADING CLUBS HAMSTRUNG BY LACK OF SPECTATOR CAPACITY AT TRADITIONAL HOMES

Enhanced facilities vital to secure Bath's future

David Hands, rugby correspondent, says there is big money to be made in Europe but most British sides are handicapped

THE contrast could not have been more stark: 27,000 Frenchmen crammed the Stade de Toulouse on Sunday to watch the local club battle with Brive for a place in the Heineken Cup final whereas, 24 hours earlier, 8,500 had been shoehorned into the Bath Recreation Ground - many of them with an indifferent view - to watch Bath's semi-final with Pau.

There is a tournament of immense potential waiting to be unleashed within European rugby but only in France are they uniformly equipped to cope with it. The municipal stadiums common to French towns, which host a wide range of sports, make most of the grounds where rugby is accommodated in England look threadbare.

Only Leicester, and those clubs which have done a deal with football clubs, stand comparison and the situation in the other three home unions is even worse.

Rugby, within a very limited parameter, has the capability of producing crowds which would go a long way

towards making a professional game sustainable. But very few of the clubs concerned have the necessary number of seats available.

Bath's situation is particularly poignant. More than any other club they have dominated the English scene, but at a venue which they are not allowed to develop beyond its present capacity, and this in a season where they play in the European final for the first time.

Tony Swift, the former England wing who is now their chief executive, paints a grim picture of what could happen if Bath are not allowed to grow. He perceives four options:

development of the Recreation Ground, which would affect the playing of cricket, hockey, lacrosse, croquet and tennis; development of an alternative stadium within the city; removal to a site outside Bath; or decline to third or fourth-division status.

Yet this is a situation with which Bath have wrestled for years, and are still no nearer a solution. "We can't afford to wait another five or six years, the game is moving forward too quickly for that," Swift said. "The thing that nags at me is not knowing where we are going, because it means we can't manage effectively. My job is to look at the

commercial viability of the club and to tell the shareholders, in particular Andrew Brown, the owner, where we stand. But I don't know whether, in the next few years, I'm looking at improve-

ments to the Rec, moving outside the city or what. If we knew we had a future at a decent stadium in Bath, we would be able to get on with development schemes in schools and the community as a whole which, at present, we can't."

It is impossible to quantify what Bath's success has meant to trade in the city over the past 15 years, but it runs to millions of pounds a year, if the money spent by visitors, the free advertising, and branding is taken into account. Much of that has to do with the Rec's city-centre location but, for all the improvements made over the last five years, the ground remains quaint by comparison with the facilities of leading French clubs.

The reason I'm raising the issue now is not as some form of blackmail but because we do need to find an answer," Swift said. "We need to sit down with the council and find out where we stand."

There has been discussion of development on derelict ground within the city, which would be a costly exercise, or the removal to a football stadium - the nearest being in Bristol or Swindon.

"Every bone in my body



Swift fears for future

commercial viability of the club and to tell the shareholders, in particular Andrew Brown, the owner, where we stand. But I don't know whether, in the next few years, I'm looking at improve-

ments to the Rec, moving outside the city or what. If we knew we had a future at a decent stadium in Bath, we would be able to get on with development schemes in schools and the community as a whole which, at present, we can't."

It is impossible to quantify what Bath's success has meant to trade in the city over the past 15 years, but it runs to millions of pounds a year, if the money spent by visitors, the free advertising, and branding is taken into account. Much of that has to do with the Rec's city-centre location but, for all the improvements made over the last five years, the ground remains quaint by comparison with the facilities of leading French clubs.

The reason I'm raising the issue now is not as some form of blackmail but because we do need to find an answer," Swift said. "We need to sit down with the council and find out where we stand."

There has been discussion of development on derelict ground within the city, which would be a costly exercise, or the removal to a football stadium - the nearest being in Bristol or Swindon.

"Every bone in my body

would react against taking this club away from the city of Bath," Swift said. "But ultimately the club employs a lot of people, 80 or 90 players, coaches and administrative staff, and I have to protect their position."

It is of considerable concern, also, that the club has to price as high as it does to come anywhere near viability, in the knowledge that spectators will not always get value for money. Those spectators have been remarkably loyal. Indeed, many made the trip to Brive in October to see Bath beaten 29-12, not knowing that the two clubs would meet again in Bordeaux on January 31 to contest the final.

It will be to Bath's advantage that they have already beaten Brive in their home pool game, by 27-25, so they know them to be fallible but equally they will have admired the huge effort the men of the Corbise made to draw Sunday's semi-final in extra time and so beat Toulouse on tries scored - in a stadium which will, next year, be able to hold 36,000.

Saracens are hoping that both Paul Wallace and Philippe Sella will be fit to play Leicester at Vicarage Road on Boxing Day.

"Every bone in my body

would react against taking this club away from the city of Bath," Swift said. "But ultimately the club employs a lot of people, 80 or 90 players, coaches and administrative staff, and I have to protect their position."

It is of considerable concern, also, that the club has to price as high as it does to come anywhere near viability, in the knowledge that spectators will not always get value for money. Those spectators have been remarkably loyal. Indeed, many made the trip to Brive in October to see Bath beaten 29-12, not knowing that the two clubs would meet again in Bordeaux on January 31 to contest the final.

It will be to Bath's advantage that they have already beaten Brive in their home pool game, by 27-25, so they know them to be fallible but equally they will have admired the huge effort the men of the Corbise made to draw Sunday's semi-final in extra time and so beat Toulouse on tries scored - in a stadium which will, next year, be able to hold 36,000.

Saracens are hoping that both Paul Wallace and Philippe Sella will be fit to play Leicester at Vicarage Road on Boxing Day.

"Every bone in my body

would react against taking this club away from the city of Bath," Swift said. "But ultimately the club employs a lot of people, 80 or 90 players, coaches and administrative staff, and I have to protect their position."

It is of considerable concern, also, that the club has to price as high as it does to come anywhere near viability, in the knowledge that spectators will not always get value for money. Those spectators have been remarkably loyal. Indeed, many made the trip to Brive in October to see Bath beaten 29-12, not knowing that the two clubs would meet again in Bordeaux on January 31 to contest the final.

It will be to Bath's advantage that they have already beaten Brive in their home pool game, by 27-25, so they know them to be fallible but equally they will have admired the huge effort the men of the Corbise made to draw Sunday's semi-final in extra time and so beat Toulouse on tries scored - in a stadium which will, next year, be able to hold 36,000.

Saracens are hoping that both Paul Wallace and Philippe Sella will be fit to play Leicester at Vicarage Road on Boxing Day.

"Every bone in my body

would react against taking this club away from the city of Bath," Swift said. "But ultimately the club employs a lot of people, 80 or 90 players, coaches and administrative staff, and I have to protect their position."

It is of considerable concern, also, that the club has to price as high as it does to come anywhere near viability, in the knowledge that spectators will not always get value for money. Those spectators have been remarkably loyal. Indeed, many made the trip to Brive in October to see Bath beaten 29-12, not knowing that the two clubs would meet again in Bordeaux on January 31 to contest the final.

It will be to Bath's advantage that they have already beaten Brive in their home pool game, by 27-25, so they know them to be fallible but equally they will have admired the huge effort the men of the Corbise made to draw Sunday's semi-final in extra time and so beat Toulouse on tries scored - in a stadium which will, next year, be able to hold 36,000.

Saracens are hoping that both Paul Wallace and Philippe Sella will be fit to play Leicester at Vicarage Road on Boxing Day.

"Every bone in my body

CRICKET: FORMER SPINNER PROMOTED AT THE OVAL AS ENGLAND SELECTOR MOVES NORTH IN COACHING ROLE

Durham sign Gooch as batting adviser

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

GRAHAM GOOCH has joined Durham as a consultant and batting coach for next season. Gooch, manager of the England A team that starts a three-month tour of Kenya and Sri Lanka in January, will join the county for pre-season training in early April.

"Helping Durham to develop its team and local talent to be more successful fits in with the aim of improving the England team," the England selector and former captain said. "The success achieved at Essex was based on good youth development policies and I am sure that is the way forward for Durham."

David Boon, the Durham captain, praised Gooch's appointment. "The club and team will benefit from Graham's input," he said. "It is excellent that the club has

been able to secure his services on a regular basis."

England Under-19 secured the first victory of their tour by beating South African Schools Colts by 28 runs in a one-day game at Zwide yesterday. Graeme Swann scored 47, including four sixes in one over from the off-spinner, Kevin Petersen, in England's 265 for nine.

Swann was later on the receiving end of some fierce hitting by Dumisa Makalima, who struck him over mid-wicket for six four times in the fortieth over.

India defeated South Africa by five wickets in Pune yesterday to set up a meeting with Australia in the semi-finals of the women's World Cup. The host nation bowled South Africa out for 80 and reached their target in 28 overs.

Medlycott takes over Surrey first-team role

BY SIMON WILDE

SURREY announced yesterday that Keith Medlycott, their second XI coach, will take charge of first-team affairs next season in succession to David Gilbert, who left three months ago to become director of coaching at Sussex. Medlycott, one of several recent spinners whose careers foundered at the Oval, has been appointed for three years on a full-time basis, which means that he will not go back to Northern Transvaal, the team he coaches in the winter, once he returns to England in late March.

Surrey quickly thought again after Allan Border, the former Australia captain, turned down the club because of other commitments, including coaching the Australia Under-19 team in the Youth World Cup next month.

Vic Dodds, chairman of Surrey's cricket committee, said yesterday: "Keith has had a good grounding for the job. He is Surrey through and through. Several of our boys made it clear that Keith was the man they wanted. Adam Hollis (the captain) always thought Keith was the right man for the job. The main problem was persuading him to give up his good lifestyle in South Africa."

Medlycott, 32, toured the Caribbean with England eight years ago. His career came to a premature and embarrassing end, though, when he was afflicted by one of the worst known cases of the "yips" and within 18 months had played his last first-team match. Last summer he led Surrey to the second XI one-day trophy.

Tendulkar turns the tables on Sri Lanka

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

INDIA, still smarting from losing their three games in the Champions' Trophy in Sharjah this month, answered their critics yesterday by comfortably accounting for Sri Lanka, the World Cup holders, in the first of a three-match one-day international series.

Sachin Tendulkar, the captain, stroked a delightful 82 not out off 86 balls as India easily overhauled Sri Lanka's modest total of 172 for nine. India won by seven wickets, reaching their target off only 37.5 overs in a match reduced to 45 overs a side after morning fog in Guwahati, India.

Tendulkar, who put on 68 for the third wicket with Navjot Singh, scored his 1,000th run in one-day internationals for the season. However, Robin Singh, the all-rounder, was named man of

the match after taking five for 22, the best figures of his career. "Recently we've not had a good time," Tendulkar said. "It's very important that we get support and that we stick together as a team."

Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka captain, said: "We played very badly - we didn't bat well and we didn't bowl or field well."

India had made six changes from Sharjah, with Anil Kumble, the spinner, and batsman Rahul Dravid among those omitted.

Debasish Mohanty, a medium-pace bowler, dismissed Sanath Jayasuriya, Marvan Atapattu and Aravinda de Silva as Sri Lanka struggled to 30 for three after being sent in. Only a defiant 68 by Roshan Mahanama enabled them to reach a reasonable total.

EQUESTRIANISM

Charles rules as Dolly takes up challenge

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

PETER CHARLES, of Ireland, the former European champion, brought the final afternoon of the Olympia championships to a stirring conclusion yesterday when he and his French-bred mare, Dolly, won the Eurosport Christmas Hamper after a breathtaking round against the clock.

Charles, who adopted Irish nationality in 1992 after being told he had no chance of making Britain's Olympic team, admitted he could not have gone any faster round the ten-fence course. "I watched Ludger [Beerbaum] and decided he had won enough this week," he said. Beerbaum, the European champion, who relegated Charles to second place in the Volvo World Cup qualifier on Saturday, had the disadvantage of going first on this occasion. His time of 44.27sec was beaten by Rodrigo Pessoa, of Brazil, in 43.52sec on Loro Piana Wanda, and then by Britain's Di Lampard on Flaminka in 43.18sec.

Charles, one of the last to ride, was giving Dolly - a horse more usually associated with grand prix and Nations cups - her first real test in this type of speed class. "Olympia is her last show for two months, so I knew she could have a good rest afterwards," he said.

The versatile mare responded with a gloriously uninhibited display of jumping, turning to the last fence with barely a stride before take-off, to finish in 41.98sec. "I asked her all the questions and she came up with all the answers," Charles said, "but I wouldn't drop her down to this level too often - she's too good a horse."

While the British selectors rue a lost talent, the Hampshire-based Charles said he had "not the slightest regret" about his defection to Ireland. Now the mainstay of the Irish team, he has one of the most envied strings in the sport.

In addition to Dolly, it includes seven-year-olds Nustria, whose display of jumping in the Volvo World Cup was one of the highlights of the week, and Carnavelly, who was third in the Paris Grand Prix last month. T'Aime, aged 9, the winner of more than £80,000 this year; and La Ina, the 1995 European champion, who has recovered from a leg injury sustained last summer. "I wouldn't swap any of them," Charles said.

Earlier, Britain's Rob



Beerbaum: disadvantage

Hoekstra gained his first success at Olympia when he and Lionel, his American-bred former racehorse, were joint winners of the Christmas Eve Six Bar with Willi Melliger, of Switzerland, on Domina. Both riders were clear in the fifth and final round when the last fence stood at 4ft 4in.

Melliger, the Olympic silver medal-winner on Calvaro, had never tested Domina over this height. The German-bred mare, aged 9, has had two foals and has only been showing for two years. But Domina has courage, as she showed on Sunday when she finished joint third in the Vink Christmas Masters, and yesterday, when the mare, the first to go in the final round, soared effortlessly over the four fences.

The Dutch-born Hoekstra, who is based at Speldhurst in Kent, had intended to run Lionel in the Grand Prix yesterday, but, as the horse is not fast against the clock, decided he would have more chance in the Six Bar. "He's a versatile horse with plenty of scope, but he jumps best when going slowly," he said.

That was soon evident. Hoekstra had the partisan Olympia crowd gasping in disbelief as he approached the huge line of fences at no more than a hand canter. But Lionel, who jumped seven feet in the puissance events in Madrid and Biarritz this year, skimmed down the line, clearing the last with inches to spare, to loud applause.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: RUNNING BACK'S RECORD ENDS FAIRYTALE OF NEW YORK

Sanders seals play-off place

Oliver Holt enjoys
the countdown
as final weekend
throws up a
thrilling duel

AMERICAN sport has made a fine art of saving the best for last. From buzzer-beaters in the final few frantic seconds of the deciding game of basketball's NBA finals to a home run in the final inning of the World Series in baseball, it has all been done. On Sunday, gridiron came up with the goods, too, when the last weekend of the regular season duly produced its most dramatic game so far.

The Detroit Lions and the New York Jets were playing for high stakes at the Pontiac Silverdome. A place in the playoffs for either team hinged on the result and sentimentalists everywhere were willing on the fairy tale ending and hoping that the Jets could complete one of the most spectacular transitions ever seen in the space of 12 months by making it to the post-season.

In the end, though, it was a different kind of fairytale that came true in Michigan. This was a home-town story, another mark in those sporting history books in which American statisticians are so fond of scribbling, a record whose worth transcends the weekly craze for establishing new targets of excellence in the National Football League (NFL).

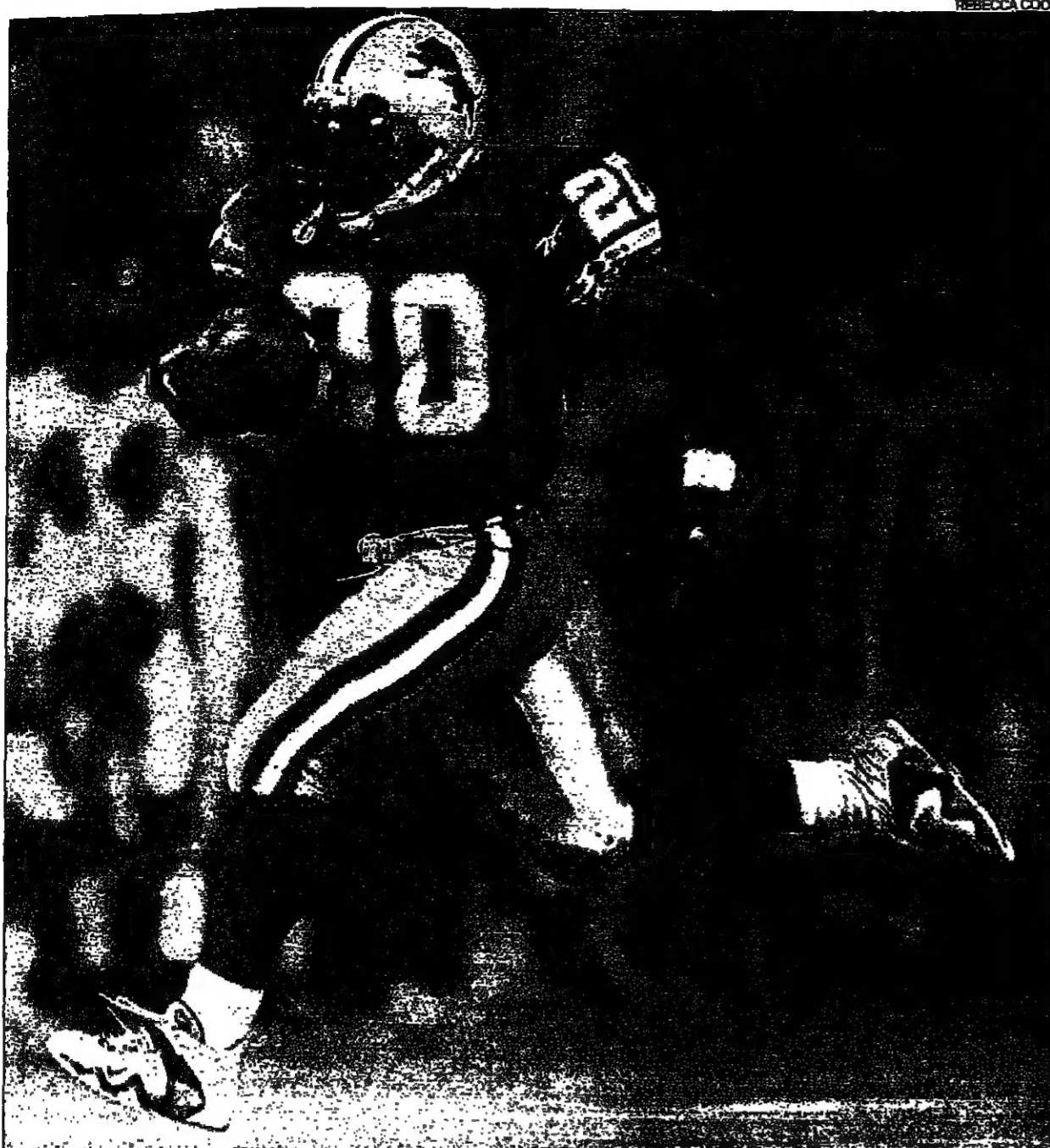
Barry Sanders, the Detroit running back, had started the game needing 131 rushing yards to become only the third player in the history of the sport to run for 2,000 yards in a regular season.

Only O.J. Simpson, who did it for the Buffalo Bills in 1973, and Eric Dickerson, of the Los Angeles Rams, who set the record in 1984, had achieved it in the past.

The Jets, who won only one of their 16 games last season and were the laughing stock of the league before their new coach, Bill Parcells, brought about such a startling change, went into an early 10-0 lead and with Sanders stuck on only 23 yards late in the third quarter, it seemed it was going to be New York's day.

But then Sanders, who is sure to be one of the leading candidates for the NFL Most Valuable Player award, broke free for a 47-yard run and scored with a 15-yard touchdown scramble a couple of plays later.

He broke the 2,000-yard barrier with an unspectacular two-yard run up the middle with just two minutes of the game to go and his team hanging on to the 13-10 advantage that was to be the final score. "It's hard to explain



Sanders, the Lions running back, becomes only the third man to break the 2,000-yard barrier in the regular season

what it means to me," Sanders said. "There's gratification, satisfaction, and not just for me but for everybody."

"I'm just lucky I'm the one carrying the ball with some great guys blocking for me. It is a great achievement for all of us and now we just have to

do what we can in the playoffs."

The victory, though, was marred for the Lions by a fourth-quarter head injury to their linebacker, Reggie Brown, who was lying on the field unconscious after a jarring collision during a tack-

le. "I think everybody would give up the game and the 2,000 yards if we could have Reggie healthy," Jeff Hardings, a Detroit offensive line-man said.

The Lions' victory squeezed them into the first round of the playoffs where they will meet the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in Florida next Sunday. The Buccaneers, one of the surprise teams of the season, clinched their place in the sun with a 31-15 win over the Chicago Bears that salvaged a season that seemed to be turning sour after a marvellous start.

The Jets' loss handed wild-card places to the Miami Dolphins and the New England Patriots, who played each other late last night at the former Joe Robbie Stadium and will meet again in the playoffs next Sunday. Last night's victors will have secured home-field advantage for next weekend's meeting.

The strongest teams in both the National and American Football Conferences, the

Green Bay Packers and the Kansas City Chiefs respectively, both won convincingly. For the Packers, their victory over the Bills was not enough to wrest home-field advantage throughout the playoffs from the San Francisco 49ers in the NFC. The way the 49ers have been playing recently, though — they lost 38-9 to the Seattle Seahawks on Sunday night — the honour may pass to Green Bay sooner rather than later anyway.

The Chiefs' win over the New Orleans Saints at least ensured they would play all their post-season matches at Arrowhead Stadium and despite the encouraging late-season form of the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Jacksonville Jaguars, they will be the favourites to join the Packers in the Super Bowl in San Diego on January 25.

The match between the Lions and the Jets, Barry Sanders and all, will take some beating but the NFL is bound to try.

NFL DETAILS

RESULTS: Cincinnati 16, Baltimore 14; Tampa Bay 31, Chicago 15; Minnesota 39, Indianapolis 16; Dallas 25, New Orleans 13; New York Giants 20, Dallas 7; Washington 20, Philadelphia 22; Tennessee 16, Pittsburgh 6; Arizona 29, Atlanta 28; Jacksonville 20, Oakland 9; Detroit 13, New York Jets 10; Denver 38, San Diego 3; Seattle 38, San Francisco 9.

Not including last night's match: Miami 9, New England 7.

division title 1 play-off place

American Conference

Eastern division

W L T PF PA

1 New England 9 5 0 265 277

2 Miami 9 6 0 327 313

3 NY Jets 9 7 0 348 287

4 Buffalo 6 10 0 235 367

5 Indianapolis 3 13 0 313 401

Central division

1 Pittsburgh 9 5 0 375 307

2 Jacksonville 11 5 0 354 318

3 Tennessee 8 8 0 333 310

4 Cincinnati 7 9 0 255 405

5 Baltimore 6 9 1 326 346

Western division

1 Kansas City 13 3 0 375 232

2 Denver 12 4 0 472 287

3 Seattle 8 8 0 285 282

4 Oakland 4 12 0 324 419

5 San Diego 4 12 0 296 425

National Conference

W L T PF PA

1 NY Giants 10 5 1 307 265

2 Washington 9 7 1 327 299

3 Philadelphia 6 9 1 317 372

4 Dallas 6 10 0 303 371

5 Arizona 4 12 0 263 379

Central division

W L T PF PA

1 Green Bay 10 6 0 422 282

2 Tampa Bay 10 6 0 289 263

3 Detroit 9 7 0 376 335

4 Minnesota 8 8 0 354 359

5 Chicago 4 12 0 263 421

Western division

1 San Francisco 13 3 0 375 265

2 Cleveland 9 7 0 365 314

3 Atlanta 7 9 0 320 327

4 New Orleans 6 10 0 287 327

5 St Louis 5 11 0 299 359

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (Sun)	Last snow
ANDORRA Soldeu	35 75	good crusty	good	far	1 21/12
(Generally good skiing with most lifts open)					
AUSTRIA Kitzbühel	0 75	hard heavy	worn	cloud	2 22/12
Mayrhofen	0 75	good heavy	closed	cloud	4 22/12
(Snow in good shape on both mountains above 1,600m)					
FRANCE Alps d'Huez	60 140	good varied	good	fine	-1 20/12
(Very good skiing in all areas except Auris)					
Avonnes	70 85	good powder	good	sun	-3 21/12
Méribel	25 40	fair poor	art	sun	-3 20/12
(Rocks poking through on most pistes; snow needed)					
Tignes	50 145	good varied	good	sun	-4 21/12
(Soft powder snow on many pistes)					
ITALY Cervinia	30 200	good powder	good	fine	0 21/12
(Excellent skiing on all pistes)					
Livigno	85 140	good powder	good	fine	-4 21/12
(Excellent skiing on nearly all runs)					
SWITZERLAND Mürren	60 80	good powder	good	sun	0 22/12
(Near perfect conditions at the moment)					

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 33

AMPELOPIS

(e) A genus of climbing plants allied to the vine. (With small initial) a plant of this genus, as one of the various species of Virginia creeper. From the Greek *ampeleia* a vine + *opsis* appearance. *Campiton* Madecasse, *Sinister Street*, 1914: "The ice-try god of Balliol, and Trinity with its municipal ampelopsis."

FARTLEK

(c) A method of training for middle- and long-distance running, in which the athlete runs over country, mixing fast with slow work. From the Swedish *fart* speed + *lek* play. "The essence of a successful fartlek session is enjoyment in hard but varying work."

GODBUSH

(d) A Jamaican name for several plants of the mistletoe family, *Loranthaceae*. "But what interests me most in this place is a flourishing Mistletoe, or God-bush, as the negroes call it."

BIDON

(e) A container for liquids. Specifically, a wooden cup, a bottle or canteen for water or wine, or an oil drum or petrol tin. Hence *bidonville*, a shanty-town built of oil drums or petrol tins. "Get the car filled up. Adèle left me two bidons for emergencies."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Bf6 and mate with 2 Rb5 and 3 Rh5 can only be prevented at ruinous material cost.

TELEVISION CHOICE

His wonderful life

James Stewart — Last of the Good Guys

BBC2, 6.35pm

To coincide with the current season of his films on BBC and the cinema's rerelease of the much-loved *It's a Wonderful Life*, a profile of the man himself. Legend has it that Stewart once asked a doctor to inject something into his vocal cords to make his famous throaty drawl even throatier for that great Senate scene in *Mr Smith Goes to Washington*. "But I never believed it," says George C. Scott, one of many Hollywood luminaries paying tribute. "If he wasn't actor enough to do that what the hell was he doing after 80 pictures?" Jimmy Stewart died in July, aged 89, and this documentary, shot in his home town of Indiana, highlights the diversity of his roles — from western hero to psychopath to Mr Nice Guy. Clips are interspersed with the memories of co-stars, directors, and members of Stewart's own family.

The Pale Horse

ITV, 9.00pm

Oh good. An Agatha Christie for Christmas. Not too much violence, a plot to challenge the little grey cells and — thankfully with this one — no round-ups in the library of stately home guests by impossibly polite policemen. That said, this is not vintage Christie — rather more, in trying for a spot of trendiness (it's set in the Swinging Sixties) this is a rather fishy novel. An amateur production of *Macbeth* sets the scene for a distinctly odd story about murder by auto-suggestion. Or so it would appear to the plucky hero (Colin Buchanan) who is trying to clear himself of the alleged murder of a priest. Said priest was carrying a list of names who were all about to face death... a coven of witches (Jean Marsh, Ruth Madoc and Maggie Shewell) and a witch (Jean Marsh, Ruth Madoc and Maggie Shewell) would seem to have much to answer for.

Secret Lives: Versace, the King of Excess

Channel 4, 9.30pm

What, when all is said and done in this exotic profile of the great designer, is so secret? We are still no nearer to learning the true identity of Gianni Versace's murderer in Miami last July. Some note that the FBI never followed up one classic clue: the two bullets to the back of the head and the dead bird found near the body are Mafia.



Saxophonist Sidney Bechet (BBC2, 11.25pm)

traded. We also learn that this absurdly rich and flamboyant Italian was under long-term investigations into alleged tax fraud and illicit ownership of state-owned antiquities. Where this documentary scores is not in its revelations and/or muckraking but in brilliantly tracing a rag-to-riches story: how a gay, sensitive young man from the mean streets of southern Italy became "the first designer superstar" or, as he himself put it, "half royalty, half rock 'n' roll".

Treat in Gentle: Sidney Bechet

BBC2 11.25pm

The arts strand riffs into a hat-trick of goodies for Christmas with a profile of the great jazz clarinetist and saxophonist Sidney Bechet. When Bechet died in 1959 more than 3,000 mourners attended his funeral in Juan-les-Pins. Yet at one time his reputation, along with those of other great pioneers of the New Orleans era, had faded almost from sight. When Woody Allen — no mean trad man himself — used Bechet's music (with his innovative soprano sax) on the soundtrack of his film *Stardust Memories* a new generation discovered Bechet. Allen is among those who pay tribute in this terrific celebration of Bechet's birth — 100 years ago in the red light district of New Orleans. Other musicians included Wynton Marsalis, Humphrey Lyttelton and Claude Luter, with contributions from Bechet's mistress, Jacqueline, and their son. Elizabeth Cowley

RADIO CHOICE

Food for Thought

Radio 5 Live, 8.00pm

One of the things I miss about no longer attending football grounds on a regular basis is the gloriously appalling food available at half-time. There is something deeply suspect about clubs that call in gastronomic geniuses to revise their fast food menus, for surely half the point of attending a football match is to sip hot Bovril and munch through a pile of dubious provenance Cornish pasties at Plymouth Argyle (the food was better than the football) were my favourite and they turn up in this anthology of football ground food, in which Fergus Sweeney also samples Arbroath kippers and Bluenose burgers. There are rumours that after making the programme Sweeney will spend Christmas wearing a "roll by mouth" sign.

Performance on 3: Paris, City of Light

Radio 3, 7.45pm

I take the chance of recommending this live concert because it promises to be an interesting evocation of Paris, albeit that it evokes Paris only after a long and unsuccessful battle with those who control the Radio 3 budget: therefore the evening evokes Paris but comes from Edinburgh. The Queen's Hall, in the process, and the music harks back to Paris in the 1920s. Tonight the highlights include out-and-out cabaret numbers by Poulenc and Kurt Weill, plus the work of two of the more distinguished Americans who were in Paris at the time, Cole Porter and George Gershwin. The performers are the singers Kim Criswell and Donald Maxwell, the pianist/conductor Wyn Davies, and the Chamber Ensemble. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

6.30am Chris Moyles 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 3.00pm Dave Pearce 6.15 Newsbeat 8.30 John Peel's Seasonal Selection 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs Live at the Zodiak 1.00am Charlie Jordan 4.00 Dave Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Alan Lester 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thorne 3.00 The Good Show (1) 3.30 Richard Ayrton 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Richard Stilgoe's Classical Gas 8.00 Nigel Ogden 9.00 The Prohibition Years 9.30 Rabi Loniwe Blue's "Chaitner" 10.30 Bob Harris 12.05am Patrick Luss 2.00 Kaitera

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme with Peter Allen and Charlotte Smith 8.00 Gary Robertson 12.00 Midday with Mair 2.00pm Race on Five 4.00 Nationwide with Julian Worraker 7.00 News Extra with David McNeil 7.30 Musical Press. Nick Coleman meets writers inspired by football (1) 8.00 Food for Thought. See Choice 10.00 News Talk 11.00 News Extra 11.30 Talk of the Night. See reports on the file and times of Prince Noriaki (1) 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up All Night with Rhod Sharp 5.00 Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Jenny Clark 7.00 Chris Evans 10.00 (FM) Robin Baris (NW) Graham Dine 1.00pm (FM) Nick Abbot (NW) Nicky Home 4.00 Mark Forster 7.00 (FM) Paul Coyte (NW) Calvin James 10.00 Lynn Parsons 2.00am Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.00am Paul Ross and Carol MacGillivray 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Anna Reaumur 9.00 Steve Hamilton 1.00am Andy Wint

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Barber (Violin Concerto); Sibelius (Karelia Suite); Poulenc (Quatre Motets pour le Temps de Noël); Dvorak (Symphony No. 9); Tchaikovsky (The Little Swan); 9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hootley. Donizetti (Sinfonia in G minor for solo wind instruments); Purcell (Welcome to All the Pleasures); Schubert (Impromptu in F minor); Strauss (Death and Transfiguration); 10.00 Musical Encounters, with Nicola Heywood. Includes Rubbra (Dormi Jeni); Mozart (Symphony No. 39 in E-flat); John Peterson (Pavane in Transfigured Time, first broadcast); Bartok (Concerto for Orchestra); Gurney (I Will Go with My Father A-Ploughing); Beethoven (Piano Quintet in E-flat); George Weir (1915); 12.00 Composers of the Week: British Light Music. 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Philip Dukes, violin; Sophie Rathman, piano. Schumann (Adagio and Allegro in G-flat); Stravinsky (Elegy for solo violin); Shostakovich (Violin Sonata) (1); 1.55 Nursery Notes: Little Jack Horner. With readings from David Hall and music from Tim Lapeere and George Weir (1915); 2.00 The BBC Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic, under Yan Pascal Tortelier, with Anur Pagan, piano. (Symphony No. 39 in E-flat); John Peterson (Pavane in Transfigured Time, first broadcast); Bartok (Concerto for Orchestra); Gurney (I Will Go with My Father A-Ploughing); Beethoven (Piano Quintet in E-flat); George Weir (1915); 2.55 The BBC Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic, under Yan Pascal Tortelier, with Craig Ogden, guitar. Milhaud (La Boule sur le Toit); Rodrigo (Concierto de Aranjuez); Bartok (Concerto for Piano and String Quartet in A minor); Sibelius (Symphony No. 1); Rimsky-Korsakov (Suez Canal Suite); 4.00 Voices — My Kind of Song: Victoria Wood. The 25 short and comic tales Ian Burnsides about her favourite songs and singers (1)

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.45 The Nation's Favourite Poems 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Call Jeremy Harris 10.00 (FM) News: And Here's the Tape to Prove It. The naturalist Nick Baker encounters the pink-toed sandpiper and man-eating piranhas of the Amazon (1/4) 10.00 (LW) News: Daily Service 10.15 (LW) On This Day, with Geoffrey Whesler 10.30 Women's Hour. Introduced by Jenni Murray 11.30 News at One, with Geoff Waite 12.00 News: You and Yours, with John Waite 12.25pm Random Edition. Stories from the British Gazette and Sunday Monitor of March 1792 (5/6) 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Alex Brodie 1.40 The Tenthers (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: Thirty Minute Theatre: Christmas Shopping, by Alan Hillman. The story of an unlikely romance between two stressed-out shoppers 2.30 Literary Notices: Abbotford, Iain Burnside visits Sir Walter Scott's house in the Scottish Borders (2/4) 3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brian 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Vaughan reviews More Grimm Tales staged at the Young Vic in London and previews the best programmes on radio and television over Christmas and New Year 4.45 Short Story: The Happy Prince, by Oscar Wilde

6.00am News with Clara English and Chris Lowe 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 5bc O'Clock News 6.30 North East of Eden, by Peter Kerry. The annual festival of St Martin brings a convoy of tourists to Paradise Island. With John Sims and Rebecca Front (4/6) (1) 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Toy Stories. Jeremy Hardy investigates the prospects for the more traditional toys and games in the face of ever increasing demand for high-tech gadgetry 8.00 Science Now. A look at the latest scientific developments and discoveries with Peter Evans (1) 8.30 The Network. In the last of the series Alan Lewis and guests contemplate the technological future. How will we work and play in the 21st century and beyond? 9.00 In Touch. Presented by Peter White 9.30 Kaleidoscope (1) 9.50 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Playback, by Raymond Chandler, abridged by Robert Dods, and read by Angus Macneil (2/10) (1) 11.00 Mediamove. The week's events in the media (1) 11.30 Southwestern Journey. Ian Fyfe returns to Hong Kong for the first time since his childhood (8/8) (1) 12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Christmas at the End of the Road. Written and read by Tom Boddett (2/6) 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 A World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 198. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 588, 908. WORLD SERVICE. FM 846; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1157, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dean, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

"An excellent venue for enjoying 'A Winter's Ale'."

The quintessential speciality ale. A perfect combination of smoothness and strength, with a subtle blend of flavours.

A most Gratifying Ale.

Brewed by Morland of Abingdon. Est'd 1711.

مكتبة النور

And stars appeared out of the North West

There must be a generation of young people growing up believing that Liverpool is most famous not for the Beatles but for the Adelphi hotel, its boozey managers and its foul-mouthed, vegetarian-hating cook (or covek as we must call him). So to show that they have a taste sense of irony, the producers of *Hotel (BBC1)* married the two great Liverpoolian icons last night by giving us a glimpse of the annual Beatles convention that takes over the Adelphi for one weekend a year.

It was clearly the producers' little joke to end their stay at the Adelphi with lookalike McCartney and Lennon singing verses such as *'If there's anything that you want, I'll send it to you. Just call on me, and I'll send it along. With love from me to you.'*

The juxtaposition of this music floating through a hotel which — at least from what we have seen — treats its guests the way a dog

treats a lamp-post, was clearly meant to be ironic. Wasn't it? It felt like the television equivalent of Magritte's surrealist painting of a pipe under which are written the words *'Ceci n'est pas une pipe'*.

Of course, the Adelphi will give you anything you want, as long as it's not polite service, a vegetarian meal or the benefit of the doubt. Running a hotel is a military operation, but the Adelphi has gone one step further and decided to treat its guests like the enemy.

"He's just a nuisance," said the I'm-taking-no-nonsense-from-you lady at reception to the television cameras, after we had witnessed a guest asking if he might be moved to a more congenial room. No, he couldn't, she told him bluntly.

One problem with *Hotel* is that it has done what it set out to do pretty well. Look at its ratings: the trouble is that its success will now entice other programme-makers to seek out their own "doo-soap"

subjects; and there are only so many of these we can stomach. And there are only so many "TV stars" that can be manufactured overnight from programmes about driving schools and hotels.

Searching for a promo to purchase its Christmas broadcasts, the Adelphi has decorated a version of its brilliant *Perfect Day* musical collage, adding a wintry park backdrop and snow-covered trees. Next month we'll see a promo in which the Dalai Lama hums the *World Service* tune, *Lillibulero*.

But it can only be a matter of time before the "stars" that television channels choose to plug their promos will be people such as the Adelphi's general manager, Eileen Downey, or travel reps in Spain, or Dover port officials, or other "doo-soap" faces. It's quite probable that, with more than eight million viewers tuning in to

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

Hotel, Downey and Smith are more recognisable to many viewers than the Dalai Lama.

They have certainly become stars in their own small way. Brian Birchall — the Adelphi's banquet manager whose weekly shouting match with the chef David Smith was beginning to look as staged as a wedding toast — says he is accosted on the streets of Liverpool by well-meaning pass-

ers by with the phrase "Just covek, will ya?" — a command he hurled at chef a few weeks ago. At the end of last night's programme, as we were brought up to date on what has happened to the "players" since the cameras stopped rolling, we learnt that Christine, the receptionist, finally had her baby and that hard-working Brian has been promoted to deputy manager. What this means for his pay packet I don't know, but presumably it guarantees him above-the-hill billing if a second series does go ahead.

Instead of trying to make stars out of learner drivers, Stella Street (BBC2) has approached fake celebrity from a different angle and created a surreal street in Surlingham, inhabited by some of Hollywood's biggest names. Michael Caine, Jack Nicholson, Joe Pesci. Al Pacino worries about the price of chicken fillers at Asda. David Bowie lives at No 2, Dirk Bogarde

at No 56. Mick Jagger and Keith Richards run the corner shop, with Mick always worrying if the cling peaches have passed their sell-by date. Oh yes, Jimmy Hill's there. And Mrs Huggert, cleaning lady to the stars. It is hard to tell whether this ten-part, ten-minute suburban soap will prove to be a historic gem or whether it will turn out to have shorter legs than a cobra, but I am veering towards the historic television gem. It's all so deliciously preposterous.

Obviously, it's hard to get Hollywood stars to act in *Brookside* or *Eastenders*, so Caine, Nicholson, et al. are played here by impressionists Phil Cornwell and John Sessions, and directed by Peter Richardson: a case of *'Ceci n'est pas Michael Caine'*. It's fake, but no more fake than making stars out of real-life hotel receptionists.

Cornwell's Caine is pure *Alfie*.

After seeing Jack Nicholson run indoors with yet another blonde, Caine looks into the camera and says: "Dirty little monkey, innit? He's like a rat up a drainpipe. Still, he makes a nice apple crumble." Later, sporting Joe Pesci digging a large, grave-size hole in his back garden, Caine inquires: "Oi, Joe. What's he got there? Is that a bita mulch?" When Pesci answers: "What the **** mulch?", Michael explains, in a neighbourly way: "Mulch is something that you put underneath to be in your roses and other ardy plants."

Pesci gets angry very, very quickly during games of Monopoly, when his neighbours refuse to let him build warehouses instead of hotels on Vine Street. "He has a tendency towards psychotic violence," stammers Jimmy Hill. "And you know, that scares me. I must say." Frankly, anything that wipes the smile off Jimmy Hill's face gets my vote.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (55743)
 - 9.00am Breakfast News (50101)
 - 9.00am The Entertainment Part II (1978, b/w) Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly introduce a compilation of MGM musical and comedy highlights (T) (51512)
 - 11.00am A Christmas Story (1983) Family comedy following a young boy as he grows up in suburban Indiana in the 1940s. Peter Billingsley stars (28555)
 - 12.30pm Celebrity: Ready, Steady, Cook! Eastenders' Wendy Richard and Todd Carly join chefs Ainsley Harriott and Tony Tobin (T) (20385)
 - 1.00pm News (50588)
 - 1.30pm Regional News (17017525)
 - 1.40pm The Weather Show (5811385)
 - 1.45pm Neighbours (T) (22303859)
 - 2.05pm Petrol (T) (5856528)
 - 3.00pm Vets in Practice (T) (T) (8453)
 - 3.30pm Playdays (7374894) 3.50pm Arthur (7354303) 4.10pm To Me, To You (3889410) 4.35pm The Mask (2256120) 5.00pm Newsround (T) (8789435) 5.10pm Aquila. Last in series (T) (8863743)
 - 5.35pm Neighbours (T) (100255)
 - 6.00pm News (T) and weather (594)
 - 6.30pm Regional News (946)
 - 7.00pm Holiday Jiff Dando follows in the wake of the Pagan Fathers to Cape Cod; Caroline Quentin explores the rainforests and coral reefs of Belize; Sophie Alderton reports from the Turkish port of Marmaris; Rose Kelly visits an unusual theme park in Holland; and John Holdsworth tries a bishy break in Vienna (T) (5052)
 - 7.30pm A Question of Sport Sports quiz chaired by Sue Barker (T) (830)
 - 8.00pm EastEnders Tiffany falls out with Aunt Lil (T) (1472)
 - 8.30pm Airport A behind-the-scenes look at Heathrow during the hectic Christmas period, following harassed staff as they try to locate a missing plane, cope with uncooperative passengers and rescue two jolly criminals who are in the wrong place at the wrong time (T) (8897)
 - 9.00pm News (T) and weather (8859)
 - 9.30pm CIA analyst Jack Ryan, Ryan gets involved in the Colombian drugs trade while trying to track down terrorists responsible for murdering a prominent senator. Based on the novel by Tom Clancy, starring Kiefer Sutherland. Directed by Philip Noyce (58408304)
 - 11.45pm Midsommar: Diva Las Vegas The singing superstar takes centre stage at the MGM Grand, Las Vegas (768552) WALES: 11.45pm FAW International Cup. Highlights of League of Wales Newtown v Cardiff City and Conwy United v Bangor City (58158) 12.20pm State of the Union: Diva Las Vegas (5820518) 1.00pm F.M. Drama: Lover (74527) 3.30pm News (5025785) 3.35pm BBC News 24
 - 1.15pm Dream Lover (1986) Thriller, with Kris Kristofferson, Ben Masters, Gayle Hunnicutt and Paul Shenar. Directed by Alan J. Pakula (775906)
 - 2.55pm Weather (5101363)
 - 3.00pm BBC News 24
- VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes**
- The new Video PlusCodes are numbers which allow you to programme your video recorder to watch a particular video. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to watch. VideoPlus+ (V+), VideoCode (V+) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Genie Development Ltd.

- BBC2**
- 7.15pm Teletubbies (T) (2037894) 7.50pm Secret Life of Toys (T) (4192678) 7.55pm Yaky Dook (T) (5813782) 8.15pm Blue Peter (T) (T) (878955) 8.40pm Harry and the Hendersons (T) (5854188) 8.10pm Jonny Quest (T) (7003329) 8.30pm Sweet Valley High (T) (5914410) 8.55pm Pingu (T) (7875781) 10.00pm Teletubbies (45781)
 - 10.30pm The Last Unicorn (1982) Animated fantasy featuring a host of star names (54148)
 - 12.00pm Gypsy Colt (1954) with Donna Corcoran, Ward Bond and Jack MacGowan. A youngster is heartbroken by her parents' decision to sell her horse. Directed by Andrew Marton (753014)
 - 1.10pm Fremantle Star (5851304) 1.20pm Champions Challenge (2046033) 2.10pm Wildlife Showcase (54274743) 2.40pm News 245 Call My Bluff (523033) 3.15pm Close-Up on James Stewart (7124149) 3.25pm News 3.30pm Showjumping (50743)
 - 4.30pm The Philadelphia Story (1940, b/w) Sophisticated romantic comedy with Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant and James Stewart. Directed by George Cukor (T) (42549743)
 - 6.20pm Close-Up on James Stewart (589410)
- HTV**
- 6.00am GMTV (2232168)
 - 9.25pm Treasure Seekers (2/4) (T) (182985)
 - 9.55pm News (T) and weather (7675057)
 - 10.00pm Tiny Toon Christmas (7689120)
 - 10.35pm The Story Lady (1991) with Jessica Tandy and Stephanie Zimbalist. When a widow decides to produce her own children's story television programme, she is unprepared for its popularity. Directed by Larry Elikann (T) (19304033)
 - 12.20pm Regional News (500588)
 - 12.30pm News (T) and weather (5967410)
 - 12.55pm Silver Bears (1978) Comedy adventure with Michael Caine as a financial genius who is sent from Las Vegas to supervise Mafia money at a Swiss bank. Directed by Ivan Passer (T) (1875726)
 - 3.00pm News (T) and weather (711520)
 - 3.05pm Regional News (5951912)
 - 3.10pm Movie Magic: The Final Frontier The world of space films (1028930)
 - 4.05pm No Greater Love (1996) Danielle Steel's period drama about a woman who loses her parents and fiancé on the Titanic and is left to cope with the running of a newspaper business. Directed by Richard Helton (T) (7853743)
 - 5.40pm News (T) and weather (343033)
 - 6.00pm The Making of Hercules (T) (187830)
 - 6.25pm Regional Weather (501269)
 - 6.30pm Regional News (594)
 - 7.00pm Emeraldale-Kim has other plans when Steve wants to be her white knight, but when she returns home she finds James is missing (T) (58862)
 - 8.00pm Brian Croxall's Crazy Christmas Music and humour from the versatile comic. With guest stars Eamonn (T) (4033)
- HTV**
- Agatha Christie's The Pale Horse** Holme Cook Buchanan and Jayne Ashbourne star in this murder-mystery about a young sculptor's quest to find the killer of a priest. Also with Jean Marsh, Ruth Madoc, Michael Byrne and Hermione Norris (T) (7120)

11.15pm Regional News (880633)

11.25pm A Sense of Christmas Following the pupils of Edinburgh's Royal Blind School as they prepare for Christmas (T) (88585)

12.25pm Running Mates (1992) with Diane Keaton and Ed Harris. A children's author is unprepared for the media intrusion that ensues when she becomes engaged to a presidential candidate. Directed by Michael Lindsay-Hogg (601183)

2.05pm Planet Mirth (5554095)

2.35pm Dance '97 (5111434)

3.30pm Rockmunkie (1515827)

4.35pm Football Extra presented by Gabriel Byrne (1808811)

5.30pm Teletalk (5812837)

5.55pm News (5155724)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
 - 6.00pm 24 Hours (762)
 - 6.30-7.00pm Central News (594)
 - 7.05pm Furry Business (5544085)
 - 7.25pm Collins and Macon's Movie Club (5358207)
 - 3.05pm Film: Cool You Are Awful (1972) starring Dick Emery, Ronald Fraser and Dennis Neill. A comedy about a crook's efforts to discover the combination of a Swiss bank account, the number of which is tattooed on the foreheads of his women. Directed by Cliff Owen (67278)
 - 4.50pm HTV Sport Classics (91025182)
 - 4.55pm Football Extra (1919927)
- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.20pm-12.30pm Illustrations (506558)
 - 6.00-7.00pm Westcountry Live (23472)
- MESIDIAN**
- As HTV West except:
 - 6.00pm Meridian Tonight (762)
 - 6.30-7.00pm Ambulance (594)
- BRISOLA**
- As HTV West except:
 - 5.39-5.40pm Anglia Air Watch (521762)
 - 6.00pm To Lunch with Brian Turner. The chef visits Stamford for a traditional Christmas celebration (762)
 - 6.22pm Anglia Weather (501269)
 - 6.30-7.00pm Anglia News (594)
 - 11.14pm Anglia Air Watch (255149)
- Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (71781)**
- 7.00pm The Babybitters' Club (5817946)**
- 7.35pm Two Stupid Dogs (5455410)**
- 8.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762)**
- 10.01pm Zig and Zag's Big Morning (8802507)**
- 10.01pm Happy Days (3540288)**
- 10.35pm The Secret World of Alex Mack (1338948)**
- 11.05pm Moonies (8441304)**
- 11.30pm The Moonies (5762)**
- 12.00pm Ernie, Indiana (19781)**
- 12.30pm Ricki Lake (46323)**
- 1.00pm Snot Mithrin (50121762)**
- 1.15pm Tanya Y Tanya (50128217)**
- 1.30pm Friends at Christmas: West Country Christmas (5744830)**
- 2.05pm Film: Miracle on 34th Street (589088)**
- 3.50pm Fresh Pop (5837033)**
- 4.00pm Christmas TV Dinners (255)**
- 4.30pm United States of America (439)**
- 5.00pm 5 Pump: Unites of America (5864656)**
- 5.40pm Craydiddur: Byrd Wedi Eu Hamleiddur: Byrd Wedi Eu Nansak (141675)**
- 6.00pm Newyddion (550762)**
- 6.10pm Heno (527655)**
- 6.30pm Brody Bach Dollg (576915)**
- 7.45pm Gwyloddol (504526)**
- 7.45pm Gwyloddol (575946)**
- 8.00pm Y Palmaraut (2439)**
- 10.00pm Broodol (747120)**
- 10.35pm Friends at Christmas (512507)**
- 11.35pm Frazier (562555)**
- 12.05pm Don't Forget Your Toothbrush (5471279)**
- 1.05pm The Stiffie (1842453)**

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.00am Sesame Street (71781) 7.00pm The Babybitters' Club (T) (57255) 7.30pm Two Stupid Dogs (T) (56762) 8.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762)
 - 10.00pm Zig and Zag's Big Morning (8802507) 10.01pm Happy Days (T) (3540288) 10.35pm The Secret World of Alex Mack (1338948) 11.05pm Moonies (8441304) 11.30pm The Moonies (5762) 12.00pm Ernie, Indiana (19781) 12.30pm Ricki Lake (46323) 1.00pm Snot Mithrin (50121762) 1.15pm Tanya Y Tanya (50128217) 1.30pm Friends at Christmas: West Country Christmas (5744830) 2.05pm Film: Miracle on 34th Street (589088) 3.50pm Fresh Pop (5837033) 4.00pm Christmas TV Dinners (255) 4.30pm United States of America (439) 5.00pm 5 Pump: Unites of America (5864656) 5.40pm Craydiddur: Byrd Wedi Eu Hamleiddur: Byrd Wedi Eu Nansak (141675) 6.00pm Newyddion (550762) 6.10pm Heno (527655) 6.30pm Brody Bach Dollg (576915) 7.45pm Gwyloddol (504526) 7.45pm Gwyloddol (575946) 8.00pm Y Palmaraut (2439) 10.00pm Broodol (747120) 10.35pm Friends at Christmas (512507) 11.35pm Frazier (562555) 12.05pm Don't Forget Your Toothbrush (5471279) 1.05pm The Stiffie (1842453)
- CHANNEL 5**
- 6.00am 5 News Early (4021255)
 - 7.30pm WorldWide: Fragile Planet The tropical forests of Central America and their plants and animals (5010) (585584)
 - 8.00pm Havalas (T) (1504051) 8.30pm Adventures of the Bad Patrol (T) (254502) 9.00pm Espresso (7855507) 10.00pm Natural Natives: Hopping Mad (T) (7) (250948) 10.30pm Period Rooms (T) (8554746)
 - 11.00pm Leesa (3148168) 11.50pm Double Espresso (5070543) 12.00pm The Bold and the Beautiful (455135) 12.30pm Family Affairs (T) (1321304)
 - 1.00pm 5 News Update (8865884)
 - 1.05pm Sunset Beach (T) (4914526)
 - 2.00pm 5's Company (3119304)
 - 3.30pm The Christmas Box (1995) with Richard Thomas, Maureen O'Hara and Annette O'Toole. An overworked father learns the true meaning of Christmas. Directed by Marcus Cole (501120)
 - 5.20pm 5's Company Late Extra (56668101)
 - 5.30pm White Collar (4587168)
 - 6.00pm 100 Per Cent Quiz (4577781)
 - 6.30pm Family Affairs Jack tells some of his possessions in order to buy Maria a Christmas present (T) (4588033)
 - 7.00pm Exclusive (5836946)
 - 7.30pm Wildlife SOS Special Volunteers at the Wildlife Aid Sanctuary in Surrey come to the aid of wild animals in distress (T) (4564217)

- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
- Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: 10.2075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz
- 6.00am 5 News Early (4021255)**
- 7.30pm WorldWide: Fragile Planet** The tropical forests of Central America and their plants and animals (5010) (585584)
- 8.00pm Havalas (T) (1504051) 8.30pm Adventures of the Bad Patrol (T) (254502) 9.00pm Espresso (7855507) 10.00pm Natural Natives: Hopping Mad (T) (7) (250948) 10.30pm Period Rooms (T) (8554746)**
- 11.00pm Leesa (3148168) 11.50pm Double Espresso (5070543) 12.00pm The Bold and the Beautiful (455135) 12.30pm Family Affairs (T) (1321304)**
- 1.00pm 5 News Update (8865884)**
- 1.05pm Sunset Beach (T) (4914526)**
- 2.00pm 5's Company (3119304)**
- 3.30pm The Christmas Box (1995)** with Richard Thomas, Maureen O'Hara and Annette O'Toole. An overworked father learns the true meaning of Christmas. Directed by Marcus Cole (501120)
- 5.20pm 5's Company Late Extra (56668101)**
- 5.30pm White Collar (4587168)**
- 6.00pm 100 Per Cent Quiz (4577781)**
- 6.30pm Family Affairs** Jack tells some of his possessions in order to buy Maria a Christmas present (T) (4588033)
- 7.00pm Exclusive (5836946)**
- 7.30pm Wildlife SOS Special Volunteers at the Wildlife Aid Sanctuary in Surrey come to the aid of wild animals in distress (T) (4564217)**

- DESIGNER**
- 6.00am Sesame Street (71781)**
- 7.00pm The Babybitters' Club (5817946)**
- 7.35pm Two Stupid Dogs (5455410)**
- 8.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762)**
- 10.01pm Zig and Zag's Big Morning (8802507)**
- 10.01pm Happy Days (3540288)**
- 10.35pm The Secret World of Alex Mack (1338948)**
- 11.05pm Moonies (8441304)**
- 11.30pm The Moonies (5762)**
- 12.00pm Ernie, Indiana (19781)**
- 12.30pm Ricki Lake (46323)**
- 1.00pm Snot Mithrin (50121762)**
- 1.15pm Tanya Y Tanya (50128217)**
- 1.30pm Friends at Christmas: West Country Christmas (5744830)**
- 2.05pm Film: Miracle on 34th Street (589088)**
- 3.50pm Fresh Pop (5837033)**
- 4.00pm Christmas TV Dinners (255)**
- 4.30pm United States of America (439)**
- 5.00pm 5 Pump: Unites of America (5864656)**
- 5.40pm Craydiddur: Byrd Wedi Eu Hamleiddur: Byrd Wedi Eu Nansak (141675)**
- 6.00pm Newyddion (550762)**
- 6.10pm Heno (527655)**
- 6.30pm Brody Bach Dollg (576915)**
- 7.45pm Gwyloddol (504526)**
- 7.45pm Gwyloddol (575946)**
- 8.00pm Y Palmaraut (2439)**
- 10.00pm Broodol (747120)**
- 10.35pm Friends at Christmas (512507)**
- 11.35pm Frazier (562555)**
- 12.05pm Don't Forget Your Toothbrush (5471279)**
- 1.05pm The Stiffie (1842453)**

- DESIGNER**
- 6.00am Sesame Street (71781)**
- 7.00pm The Babybitters' Club (5817946)**
- 7.35pm Two Stupid Dogs (5455410)**
- 8.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762)**
- 10.01pm Zig and Zag's Big Morning (8802507)**
- 10.01pm Happy Days (3540288)**
- 10.35pm The Secret World of Alex Mack (1338948)**
- 11.05pm Moonies (8441304)**
- 11.30pm The Moonies (5762)**
- 12.00pm Ernie, Indiana (19781)**
- 12.30pm Ricki Lake (46323)**
- 1.00pm Snot Mithrin (50121762)**
- 1.15pm Tanya Y Tanya (50128217)**
- 1.30pm Friends at Christmas: West Country Christmas (5744830)**
- 2.05pm Film: Miracle on 34th Street (589088)**
- 3.50pm Fresh Pop (5837033)**
- 4.00pm Christmas TV Dinners (255)**
- 4.30pm United States of America (439)**
- 5.00pm 5 Pump: Unites of America (5864656)**
- 5.40pm Craydiddur: Byrd Wedi Eu Hamleiddur: Byrd Wedi Eu Nansak (141675)**
- 6.00pm Newyddion (550762)**
- 6.10pm Heno (527655)**
- 6.30pm Brody Bach Dollg (576915)**
- 7.45pm Gwyloddol (504526)**
- 7.45pm Gwyloddol (575946)**
- 8.00pm Y Palmaraut (2439)**
- 10.00pm Broodol (747120)**
- 10.35pm Friends at Christmas (512507)**
- 11.35pm Frazier (562555)**
- 12.05pm Don't Forget Your Toothbrush (5471279)**
- 1.05pm The Stiffie (1842453)**

SATELLITE AND CABLE

- For further listings see Saturday's Vision**
- SKY 1**
- 6.00am Morning Glory (589149) 8.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762) 11.00pm Days of Our Lives (13565) 12.00pm Oprah Winfrey (589149) 1.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762) 2.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762) 3.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762) 4.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762) 5.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762) 6.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762) 7.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762) 8.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762) 9.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762) 10.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762) 11.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762) 12.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762)
- SKY MOVIES GOLD**
- 4.00pm Santa Claus: The Movie (1984) (581532) 6.00pm Santa Claus: The Movie (1984) (581532) 8.00pm Santa Claus: The Movie (1984) (581532) 10.00pm Santa Claus: The Movie (1984) (581532) 12.00pm Santa Claus: The Movie (1984) (581532)
- TNT**
- 6.00pm North by Northwest (1959) (5435128) 1.30pm The Flash and the Devil (1927) (5548576) 1.30pm All at Sea (1968) (4522528) 3.15pm The Secret Partner (1981) (5891785) 5.00pm Close
- SKY SPORTS 1**
- 7.00pm Sports Centre (54569) 7.30pm Sports Centre (54569) 8.00pm Sports Centre (54569) 8.30pm Sports Centre (54569) 9.00pm Sports Centre (54569) 9.30pm Sports Centre (54569) 10.00pm Sports Centre (54569) 10.30pm Sports Centre (54569) 11.00pm Sports Centre (54569) 11.30pm Sports Centre (54569) 12.00pm Sports Centre (54569) 12.30pm Sports Centre (54569)
- SKY SPORTS 2**
- 7.00pm Sports Centre (54569) 7.30pm Sports Centre (54569) 8.00pm Sports Centre (54569) 8.30pm Sports Centre (54569) 9.00pm Sports Centre (54569) 9.30pm Sports Centre (54569) 10.00pm Sports Centre (54569) 10.30pm Sports Centre (54569) 11.00pm Sports Centre (54569) 11.30pm Sports Centre (54569) 12.00pm Sports Centre (54569) 12.30pm Sports Centre (54569)

- SKY SPORTS 3**
- 12.00pm Wrestling (5111018) 1.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762) 2.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762) 3.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762) 4.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762) 5.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762) 6.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762) 7.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762) 8.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762) 9.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762) 10.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762) 11.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762) 12.00pm The Big Breakfast (37762)
- EUROSPORT**
- 7.00pm Speedway (19749) 8.00pm Cycling (58555) 10.00pm The Alps (58702) 11.00pm Snowboarding (44588) 12.00pm Low Alpha (58148) 12.30pm Telford (21120) 2.00pm Action (50022) 4.00pm Football (58123) 5.00pm Football (58123) 6.00pm Football (58123) 7.00pm Football (58123) 8.00pm Football (58123) 9.00pm Football (58123) 10.00pm Football (58123) 11.00pm Football (58123) 12.00pm Football (58123)
- UK GOLD**
- 6.00pm Saturday (491461) 7.35pm Neighbours (584558) 8.00pm Neighbours (584558) 8.30pm Neighbours (584558) 9.00pm Neighbours (584558) 9.30pm Neighbours (584558) 10.00pm Neighbours (584558) 10.30pm Neighbours (584558) 11.00pm Neighbours (584558) 11.30pm Neighbours (584558) 12.00pm Neighbours (584558) 12.30pm Neighbours (584558)

- FOX KIDS NETWORK**
- 6.00pm Dolly and His Friends (630 881) 6.30pm Dolly and His Friends (630 881) 7.00pm Dolly and His Friends (630 881) 7.30pm Dolly and His Friends (630 881) 8.00pm Dolly and His Friends (630 881) 8.30pm Dolly and His Friends (630 881) 9.00pm Dolly and His Friends (630 881) 9.30pm Dolly and His Friends (630 881) 10.00pm Dolly and His Friends (630 881) 10.30pm Dolly and His Friends (630 881) 11.00pm Dolly and His Friends (630 881) 11.30pm Dolly and His Friends (630 881) 12.00pm Dolly and His Friends (630 881) 12.30pm Dolly and His Friends (630 881)
- DISNEY CHANNEL**
- 6.00pm Sesame Street 7.00pm The Little Mermaid 7.30pm Quick Pick 8.00pm Brand

- TRICK**
- 6.00pm Happily Ever After (630 881) 6.30pm Happily Ever After (630 881) 7.00pm Happily Ever After (630 881) 7.30pm Happily Ever After (630 881) 8.00pm Happily Ever After (630 881) 8.30pm Happily Ever After (630 881) 9.00pm Happily Ever After (630 881) 9.30pm Happily Ever After (630 881) 10.00pm Happily Ever After (630 881) 10.30pm Happily Ever After (630 881) 11.00pm Happily Ever After (630

